Bird Notes

VOL. VII.

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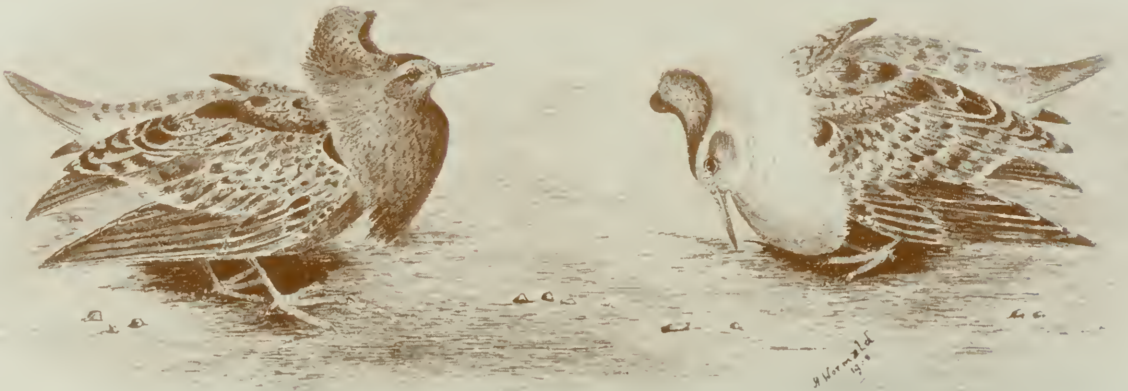

RUFFS IN BATTLE ARRAY.

BIRD NOTES.

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THE JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB
FOR THE STUDY OF ALL SPECIES OF BIRDS
IN FREEDOM AND CAPTIVITY.

VOLUME VII.

> "*By mutual confidence and mutual aid*
> *Great deeds are done and great discoveries made.*"

EDITED BY
WESLEY T. PAGE, F.Z.S., M.B.N.H.S.

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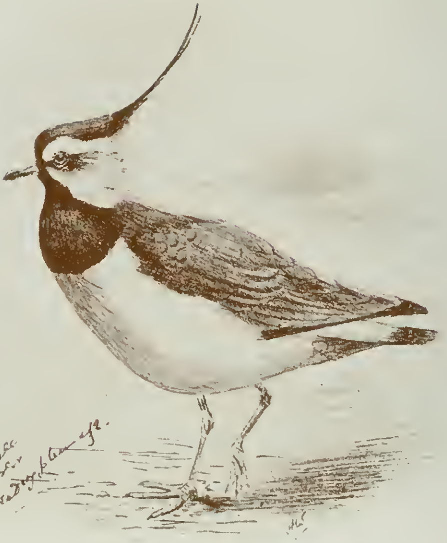
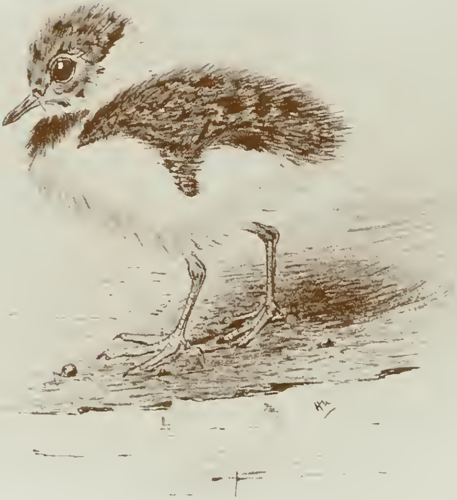


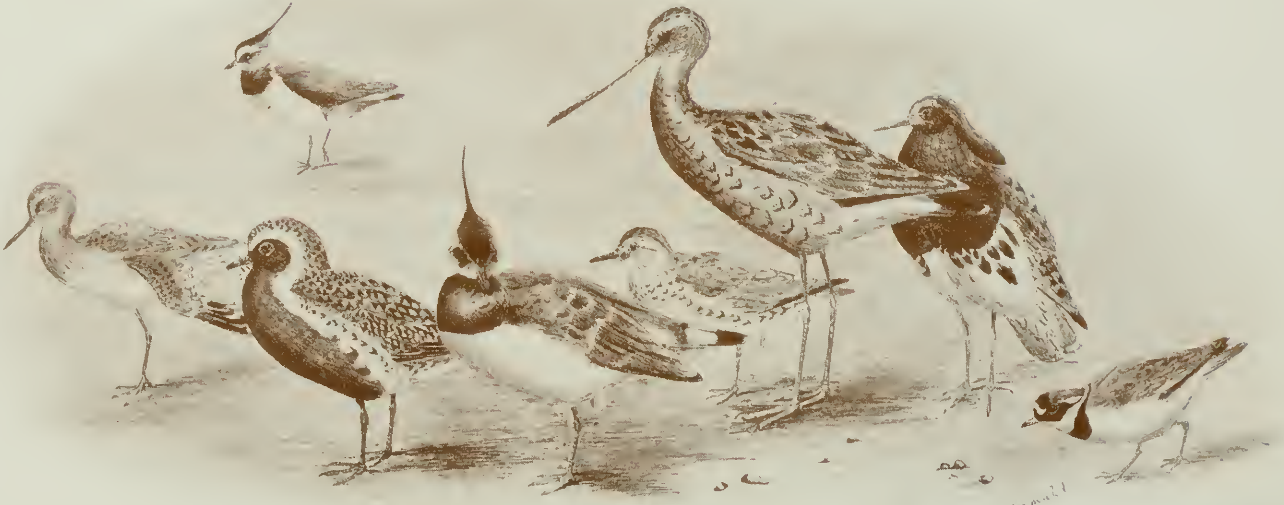
Old male
Golden plover
in breeding plumage.

GOLDEN PLOVER.



Young pewit
4 days old.

YOUNG PEWITT.



GOLDEN PLOVER, BLACK-TAILED GODWIT, RUFF & RINGED PLOVER IN SPRING PLUMAGE,
REDSHANK, GREEN PLOVER, & KNOT IN WINTER PLUMAGE.

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BIRD NOTES:

— THE —

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

Waders in Captivity.

By HUGH WORMALD.

Illustrated by the Author.

Of the various kinds of British birds which I have kept in captivity, Waders are undoubtedly the most interesting; and although only Avocets, Redshanks and Ruffs have, as far as I know, been bred in captivity, nearly all the Waders afford an interesting study in assuming their breeding plumage, if kept in suitable surroundings. Unlike many birds, they may be kept full-winged in a comparatively small aviary without injuring themselves, owing to their knack of turning quickly when on the wing. Even the larger species, such as the Black-tailed Godwits, flit through the small fir trees in my aviary with an agility that would rival a Woodcock.

The inmates of my aviary at present consist of: Grey, Green, Golden and Ringed Plovers, Bar-tailed and Black-tailed Godwits, Ruffs and Reeves, Redshanks, Knots and Dunlins.

Last May one of my Reeves mated to *two* Ruffs, and scraped out a nest under a tussock of grass, in which she laid three eggs; unfortunately these were destroyed by mice. She then laid a second clutch which shared a similar fate. I hope for better luck this year as I think I have made my aviary mouse-proof. Although the Green Plovers made a great fuss, and several "scrapes," no eggs were laid, probably owing to the female not having moulted properly the previous year, and therefore not being in very good health at the time.

However, I have still alive a Green Plover and a Redshank which I hatched in an Incubator and reared by hand. Space forbids me to describe the whole process in detail, but I may mention that incubation in both cases lasted twenty-six days at a temperature of 104° Fahr. I also reared by hand Ringed Plover, Common and Lesser Terns, but these were obtained a few days old; with Snipe I was not so successful, as the young died when a fortnight old during my absence from home. It is interesting to note that the young Snipe, unlike the Plover and Redshank, refused to pick their food off the ground, but would only take worms when given them in my hand. I should be interested if any of your readers could tell me whether Snipe in a wild state feed their young with their bills. Two young Snipe which I obtained when just feathering bored for worms in a pan of wet mud; these two lived for some time, but both died on the same day, although seemingly in good health at the time: I attributed this to their having had water given them from a painted can.

So far as my experience goes, Waders require little or no shelter through the winter. My aviary is built with walls on the north and east: there is no other shelter except a few shrubs and fir trees; the remaining two sides and roof are of wire netting, yet they all came safely through the exceptionally severe winter of last year.

With regard to feeding: Waders thrive well on soaked Biscuit Meal (Spratts' Medium), chopped egg and raw liver, which takes the place of worms, though the latter should be given them occasionally. By way of a change chopped raw fish and rice pudding may be given. All the smaller kinds are partial to small seeds. It is most important that they should be provided with plenty of clean water and good sand; they should also have a grass run cut short like a lawn, and the aviary should have a sunny aspect. I find that the Knots are very apt to develop lameness, and it seems impossible to guard against this.

One of the features of my Wader aviary last summer was a Golden Plover that assumed the most perfect breeding plumage I have ever seen. He was much admired by such a competent critic as Mr. G. E. Lodge, who proposed that I should have him made into a skin as I should never get another to equal him. However, I am glad to say he is still alive and I hope will reassume his black breast this summer.

This spring I intend to try again to rear Snipe, and also to try my luck with Woodcock. I may mention that the dimensions of my Wader aviary are 15 yards by 11 yards by 8 feet high; and in conclusion, would strongly recommend any lover of British birds to try Waders, as they will amply repay his trouble.

The Olive-backed Thrush.

Turdus serranus (?).

By R. Suggitt.

Out of a private consignment of birds from Mexico, which arrived here in June 1907, I was fortunate enough to secure a true pair of Olive-backed Thrushes. The accommodation on board the sailing ship, by which the birds were brought, was very limited, and consequently a large percentage died on the voyage. None of the survivors would have taken a prize at the Crystal Palace, but they appeared fairly healthy.

The Thrushes were in a particularly dirty state, and had their wings very closely clipped. Both birds were ridiculously tame.

The Olive-backed Thrush is almost as large as the Song Thrush. The general plumage of the male is olive brown, greener on the rump and upper tail coverts; flight feathers and tail darker brown edged with olive; under surface tinged with buff; the feathers beneath the wings and the under tail coverts paler; throat dirty white streaked with brown; bill at base blue grey, dirty yellow towards the tip; eyes, brown; feet, lead colour. The female is more stoutly built than the male, has a shorter, thicker bill, and is throughout decidedly greener in colour. The song is sweet but very low and is usually sung at dusk.

I put them into my outdoor aviary in July. The hen could fly a few feet, but the cock had to trust almost entirely to his legs. They are very fond of bathing, and will soak themselves half a dozen times a day. They will eat earthworms, caterpillars, gentles, almost any live thing in fact, except garden slugs and snails; any preference they may have is for mealworms. They are not fond of fruit, although I have seen the cock eat a little very ripe banana. They are harmless, rather timid birds, and cannot be described as lively, for, like most thrushes, they prefer to perch statue-like in one position almost all day long. On August 10th I was surprised to see the hen busily building a nest on the top of a Hartz cage under the sheltered portion of the aviary. The site was about eighteen inches from the untidy nest of a pair of Yellow Sparrows, and I was obliged to clip all the loose ends of hay from the sparrow's nest, which the thrush was using as material for her own, to the great indignation of the two sparrows. The next day saw her still steadily building, but she was very independent and did not consult her husband. They were not even on speaking terms with each other, and snapped their bills whenever the distance between them became less than a yard.

It was very amusing to see the hen at work: she collected a small bundle of short lengths of hay, dipped them first into the drinking water, and then into a small dish of mud which I had put down for her benefit. This performance was gone through several times before she was satisfied that the hay was wet and muddy enough. Owing to her wings being clipped she had great difficulty in reaching the nest, which was in the very highest part of the shelter, and until I arranged a series of easy stages to the nest, she often made five or six futile attempts to reach it. After each failure to reach the nest she invariably returned to the water dish again, and went through the whole process with the hay.

Before I put in the mud, she was taking small pieces of earth in her bill to the water, no doubt with the idea of making her own mud, but the earth fell to pieces as soon as it touched the water. As a consequence the only result was muddy water, which had to be changed several times a day.

She did not work continuously at the nest, but made two or three journeys at a time, and then enjoyed a good long rest. I could still see through the bottom of the nest on August 17th, but on the 19th it appeared to be completed, also, this was the first morning that the drinking water was not muddy.

During all this time the cock had not taken the slightest interest in the hen or her work, except when she went a little too near when, as she was clearly master of the situation, he would make his usual snap at her and retire to safety. Probably he could not have reached the nest even if his interest had developed.

One day about this time, when I went into the aviary with the mealworm box, I heard such a bloodcurdling scream close to my ear that I nearly dropped the mealworms. It came from the hen thrush; she was probably warning me not to go too near the nest, and afterwards she greeted me in this fashion every time I opened the aviary door.

I examined the nest on August 22nd and found it to contain one egg: the next day there were two. The nest was lined with fine hay, and both it and the eggs, except for their rather smaller size, were not to be distinguished from the nest and eggs of the Blackbird.

Of course I had not the least hope that the eggs would be fertile, but it was an interesting experience, and proved that these birds were willing enough to breed in captivity in spite of their being so greatly handicapped. In order to give the hen a little encouragement I allowed her to sit until September 6th, when I added the eggs—there were still only two—to my collection, and substituted two blown Blackbird's eggs. These proved too light, however, one being found on the floor broken the next morning. On entering the aviary the hen attacked me, evidently thinking that I had been tampering with the nest. She looked at the remaining egg a long time before she settled down on it, and the day after the nest was empty.

Late in September the hen was carrying hay about, and appeared to be desirous of building another nest, but both she and the cock commenced to moult early in October. The hen completed her moult at the end of that month, the cock nearly at the end of the next. He commenced to sing again as soon as the moult was finished.

I was looking forward to rearing young ones from them during 1908, but, unfortunately, as I was catching some birds which I wished to dispose of out of the aviary, I stepped heavily upon the hen, and so severely injured her internally that she died in a few minutes.

[Mr. SUGGITT has kindly sent the body to me, and the unfortunate accident which robbed him of so rare and charming a bird is the more to be regretted, as they would undoubtedly have bred this coming season. I at once saw the bird was a very rare and uncommon species and formed the opinion that it was a near ally or variety of *T. murinus*—owing to physical infirmity I was unable to go over to the Museum, so as soon as the skin came back from the taxidermists (Mr. S. kindly permitting me to retain same), I sent it on to the Museum, and the authorities there are of the opinion that it is probably a new species, and they place it as a near ally of *T. serranus*. As the Museum authorities expressed a desire for the skin, I have in turn donated it to them, and we may hope to have it properly named at some near date. I have given it the trivial name at head of the article.—Ed.

The Malabar Starling.

Poliopsar malabaricus.

By Miss M. E. Baker.

Although the Malabar Starling is not a brightly coloured bird, it certainly is a very pretty one. The principal colouration is grey, suffused with a red-brown shade; the head of the male is almost white, beak yellow, and the eyes very light grey.

The colouration of the female is very similar, practically the only difference being that the breast and head are a little darker in hue.

My pair of Malabars are most interesting and amusing birds, passionately fond of mealworms; whenever I pass the aviary, they always come to the front and look round to see if I have a mealworm for them; they are very disappointed if this is lacking, and there is quite an excited chattering and running about before they fly away to their usual perch at the top of the aviary.

The Malabars agree well with the other birds in the aviary, except a Glossy Starling, they steal his mealworms and annoy him exceedingly, and I am afraid they will suffer for it some day.

Last year they built a nest and hatched out four young chicks. I had no idea they were building, and was much surprised to hear the young calling for food; it was difficult to locate the nest, so I invoked the gardener's assistance almost expecting to find mice, the calling of the young so much resembled the squeaking of these aviary pests. He lifted a large nest out of the box, and in it were four lovely little Malabars.

I quickly had the nest put back and almost immediately the hen flew in. It was an interesting and pretty sight to see the parent bird feed her young; she would fly down for some food, making rapid and repeated journeys to and from the nest, and when they were fed all round, she would go and have a good drink, and then satisfy the thirst of her little ones.

Both the old birds were continuously in and out of the nest, and were evidently much engrossed with the care of their progeny. They fed the young with all sorts of insects and soft food.

The old birds were very tame and not at all afraid of me, in fact would feed the young while I stood quite near; and I had great hopes of rearing Malabar Starlings, but it was not to be: when the young were about ten days old I noticed both the birds off the nest. They seemed to be in great trouble and flew towards me as if they wanted something, I heard no sound from the nest and on examination found the young all dead. The chicks were fat, well developed and partially feathered.

The old birds appeared very unhappy over their loss and so was I, but I hope for better luck next time.

[The late Herr Wiener successfully reared this species in confinement, his birds choosing a cigar nest-box in which to build their nest—he never gave much food at a time and adopted the plan of putting a thin layer of mould over their soft food dish, partially covering same, and thus taught them to dig for the choicer bits—one hour he gave mealworms, another some spiders, or small bits of raw beef, or a handful of live ants, larvæ and mould, and soon the young were able to fend for themselves. He found them very lively and interesting birds, continually on the move, yet always in perfect plumage. A hybrid between the Malabar and Andaman Starling was reared at the London Zoo some few seasons ago, which I believe is still living; it certainly was a very handsome bird when last I saw it. Hume describing this bird in its native haunts, states that it is also known as the Grey-headed Mynah, and appears to prefer country that has been partly cleared; it congregates in flocks of from 40 to 50 individuals. It nests in natural holes in trees (dead or living), choosing one difficult of access at an elevation of from 20 to 50 feet from the ground. The eggs are three or four in number and of a pale blue or sea-green colour. It ranges over India, Burma, and Cochin-China.—Ed.]

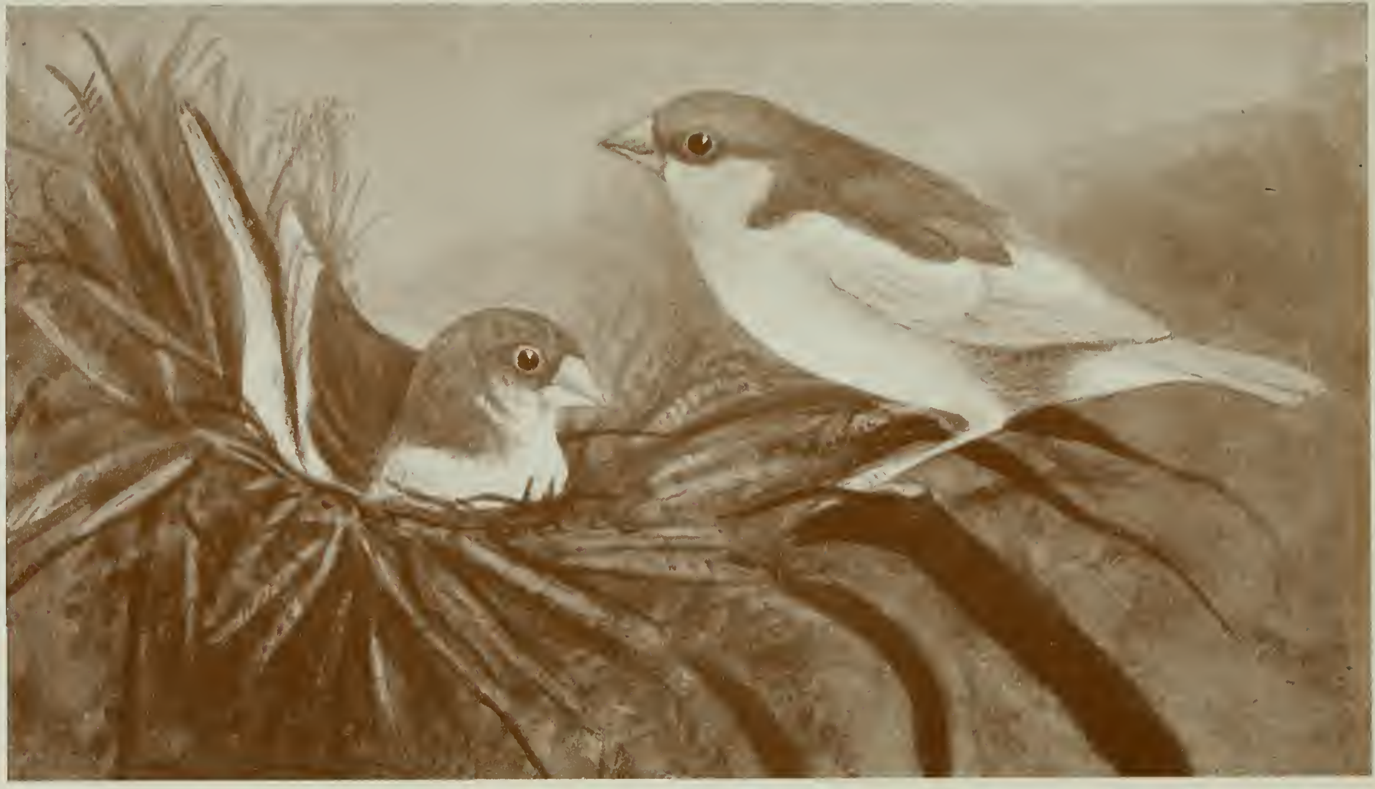
The Bengalese.

By H. R. Fillmer.

There are three fully domesticated varieties of cage birds—the Canary, the White Java Sparrow, and the Bengalese. The last named, and by no means the least interesting, is a product of Japanese industry and skill. Either the Sharp-tailed Finch (*Uroloncha acuticauda*), the Striated Finch (*U. striata*) or some nearly allied form now extinct, appears to have constituted the original stock, but for so long a time (how long it is impossible to say, but possibly for hundreds of years) has the race existed in captivity that it has developed well marked and permanent variations, in the same way as the Canary has. With this difference, however, that while the Canary has developed along several distinct lines, producing such diverse types as the Belgian, the Norwich, the Lizard, &c., the Bengalese has varied little except in one point, viz., that of colour, and the total variation from the parent stock is much smaller than in the case of the Canary.

There are two forms of this bird, the Fawn and White, and the Chocolate and White; and although these forms are constantly crossed they always breed true. In other and more scientific phraseology, the inheritance is alternative. The two forms seem to behave much as the buffs and yellows of Canarydom, but the analogy with Blue and Grey Dutch Rabbits is still closer. The pure white Bengalese is sometimes spoken of as a third form, but it is really only an extreme development of one of the others. This white form is seldom seen, at any rate in Europe, but there seems no reason why it should not, by careful selection, become more or less fixed, and in time fairly common, though it is to be expected that, as in the case of the White Java Sparrow, only a small proportion would be bred true to colour.

The Bengalese is no songster, for though he expends a lot of energy on the production of his few notes, they are very faint and not at all musical. Nevertheless his quaint confiding ways are attractive. He is fairly easy to breed, and success is best obtained by placing one pair in a cage or small aviary without other occupants. The nest is built in a closed receptacle, such as a cocoa nut husk or a cigar box. Soft hay, and a little hair



THE BENGALEE.

By Miss Eleanor Brooksbank.

from a Canary nest bag, or a few feathers, will suffice for nesting material. The birds are very tame, and are at least as indifferent as Canaries are to observation or interference.

The young can be reared perfectly well on seed and green food, but crumbled sponge cake may be supplied, and crushed biscuit. Egg food is undoubtedly dangerous, and I well remember losing a fine nest of four or five young Bengalese from a mysterious disease which I now believe to have been brought about by its use.

There is no reliable means of distinguishing cocks from hens except by the song of the males. In the absence of a female, a cock Bengalese will often sing to another male,—so if one has a couple and one sings to the other, it is not safe to assume that they are a pair. This bird readily interbreeds with nearly allied forms. I have bred several hybrids between it and the Silverbill, all of which resemble the Silverbill more than the other parent.

There is usually little success in breeding Bengalese in a large aviary—especially if more than one pair present, in which case they often all crowd into one nest. And the bird does not defend its nest so well as the wild species do.

Anyone with the necessary time and space could conduct some interesting investigations into the problems of variation and heredity by experimenting in the breeding of this bird, and by crossing it with other forms.

My Favourite Stretch of Indian River.

By Captain G. A. PERREAU.

It is curious the way the stream is divided off into stretches, especially when birds are plentiful, as in autumn, With so many young birds, half a mile will perhaps give four or five stretches, each holding one or a pair of Whitecaps, and a cock or a pair of of Plumbeous Redstarts. The limits are the scenes of many a conflict, till they become a sort of neutral or rather common ground, which is left alone by the later arrival. These two species have practically the same limits and leave each other alone. From analogy I take it that where there are two Whitecaps they are a pair and where there is only one it is a cock. This is the case with the Plumbeous. It is curious too, how the cocks outnumber the hens, at this time of the year at any rate. I have noticed this with many other species, but it is particularly noticeable with those birds frequenting open and more or less fixed abodes. To return to this half-mile of river, this will also probably accommodate a Spotted and a Little Forktail, a pair of Dippers, a few Wagtails (a nuisance to the trapper who does not want them), a Whistling Thrush or so (a nuisance in another way) and a few noisy Streaked Laughing Thrushes in the Khud bushes. These might be called the regular inhabitants. The beautiful Crested Black and White Kingfisher is also generally to be seen sometime during the day, but his stretch covers a larger area. Other birds, of course, are also to be seen, Chukor creeping down for a drink, Pigeon, a stray Hawk or so, or an Eagle or Lammergeier moving up or down, and sundry small birds, but they are present by chance.

The Little Forktail is perhaps the most interesting to watch. The way he plunges into quite deep, swift water and runs along the bottom up stream is always a marvel to me, and I have watched him do this at distance of a few feet only. A good many of us have stood inside a waterfall where one is comparatively dry, and no doubt the little chap is fond of this too, but he also likes running up in the water on apparently most slippery rocks. It is astonishing why he is not beaten down again, but he bobs out at the top quite spick and span, flies busily to the bottom and runs up again, apparently getting food on the way. He is so busy at this game that if one is lucky at the start as to position one can get quite close by only moving when he is on the journey up. In one place I believe I could have caught him if smart with a landing net, which on the whole I am glad I did not have with me. He has quite defeated my endeavours to trap him, like those annoying Black Crested Tits, which laugh at my traps and bathe joyously within a yard or so of me, and within a foot or so of my traps in the channel which waters my garden from the tap. The other Tits (the Grey and the Green-back) which I do not want, continually catch themselves, but not the Crested. The Plumbeous Redstart by no means minds getting wet, but he won't go under the water. The little Forktail sticks to one beat for some time, but then he may move off quite a long way, and owing to comparative paucity has no need to stick to a stretch. The Spotted Forktail is much the same as regards a beat, probably for the same reason. He is a handsome bird with his long tail, but neither so daring nor so interesting to watch. He is much more in evidence but is more shy than his smaller and less striking relative. The White-capped Redstart always catches the eye, also the ear with their sharp call note. I have never heard any other note from them except the harsh alarm note of the Chat and Robin type. It is curious how all these stream birds have a very similar call note, it would take a smart ear to distinguish the call notes of these six at a distance, *i.e.*, the Forktails, Redstarts, Dipper, and the Whistling Thrush. Of course it does not follow that the Whitecap has not got a song as I have never heard the Plumbeous sing when wild, though now I know, from seeing him in the aviary, that I must often have seen him singing when having a rustle-up with a rival, but the sound of rushing waters in such streams drowns everything but a short shrill note. The White-capped Redstart and the Little Forktail go up higher to breed. I think my favourite bit of stream is at its best about this time (autumn) of year. In Chitral such bits were especially good at the beginning of the spring migration, as the waste land made splendid Chat country and one could generally count on seeing (beside the above) Guldenstad's Redstart, probably also Eversman's, several Chats, Strickland's, the Siberian, Redtailed and the Wheatear; several Finches, the Gold-fronted and Mongolian Desert for nearly certain; the Wallcreeper and the Blue Rock Thrush; a greater variety of Wagtails with the Kingfisher and a few Sandpipers in variety. Of course one did not get all these everywhere along the river, but there were lots of places where all these and more could be seen in ten minutes without moving a yard. In really good places one had to move only a very short way to get among the tree birds, Orioles, Minivets, Drongos, etc. My thoughts ran on beautiful aviaries then but I think I was always keenest on a rocky stream aviary in natural surroundings, probably because the bird inhabitants were more in evidence, and it was easier to study their interesting little ways.

Varied Feeding of Lories and Lorikeets.

By Mrs. Warren Vernon.

I have lately been rather interested in the many and varied manners of feeding the same species of birds in captivity ; it may interest our Members to note some of them. Take Lories and Lorikeets.

The following are some of the different ways of feeding these birds, lately seen by me in the various journals devoted to Aviculture.

(1) Figs, with boiling water poured over a bun squeezed out in same and the fig mashed up in twice the amount of bun. Keeps birds in perfect health.

(2) Crushed Osborne biscuits, with milk and water made moist, brown sugar liberally sprinkled on it, a slice of orange also well sugared. Keeps birds in perfect health.

(3) Milk sop, as staple food, with strawberry jam or honey and fruit. Birds keep in perfect health.

Now here are three ways, all apparently suiting the birds, all tried by people who have studied their subject. The birds in each case have done so well that their owners have thought it worth while telling others the result ; and then one hears how difficult it is to feed certain birds suitably.

Take, again, birds in other nations. Japanese, Chinese, and Indians feed their birds on food which we cannot obtain : they live and thrive. In the South of France soft-billed birds are fed quite differently from here, yet you import these same birds from all these different nations and, though accustomed to the various foods they have been brought up on, or at any rate kept on for some time, you give them a complete change of diet, and yet the birds thrive and do well. One hears a great deal of the delicacy of soft bills, but really I think they are perfect wonders in their digestive system.

Foreign Birds at the National Show.

The L.P.O.S. held their 49th Annual Show at the Crystal Palace from Feb. 7th to 11th, and it certainly was a success. The Foreign section with which we are chiefly concerned, though not a record, contained some rare and uncommon birds among the 129 entrants. The main features of interest for the general public were the Birds of Paradise, neither of which were perfect, so far as their tail plumes were concerned. Undoubtedly the rarest bird present was the Rev. H. D. Astley's Purple-breasted Parrot. Some of the more notable birds were as under:

THE PURPLE-BREASTED PARROT (*Triclaria cyanogaster*).

This specimen I believe to be, not merely the only one in Great Britain, but the only one in Europe. It is a beautiful bird, and bears a strong resemblance to the Eclectus, but it is fully one third smaller than this bird. It is a South American bird, and not a great deal is known concerning it, but it appears to be confined to South Eastern Brazil. I did not take detailed notes of its plumage, so can only roughly describe it. The general body colouring was lustrous green, with a large patch of violet, glossed purplish in the centre, on the abdomen. It has very beautiful eyes of a ruddy-brown colour. The female lacks the violet patch of the male, her plumage being unvaried green. Judging by this specimen it is an amiable species; it quite appreciated being fondled and having its poll scratched even by strangers; it however did not impress one as being an intelligent species. Purple-breasted is surely a misnomer, Purple-bellied if not so euphonious is certainly more descriptive. It is also known as the Violet-bellied and Azure-bellied Parrot. It is closely allied to the Dusky and Hawk-headed Parrots which it ranks next to in the B.M.C., Vol. XX.

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THE GOLDEN-BREASTED BUNTING (*Emberiza flaviventris*).

Two of this beautiful species were exhibited, but Mr. Bliss's bird was far and away ahead of its rival as regards brilliancy of colour and condition. There are three if not more species which practically only differ in the colour areas and intensity of colouring, and I regret I did not take more careful observation of the least brilliant specimen, as possibly it was one of those near species. This should prove a delightful bird for the aviary and possesses also the additional attraction, of not having yet been bred in this country. It ranges over practically the whole of Southern and Tropical Africa, extending northwards to the Congo and Abyssinia. The adult male has the sides and upper part of the head black, broken up by five longitudinal lines, a narrow one down the centre of the crown extending to the nape, and two on each side of the head, one above and one below the eye; upper surface nutty-brown with the centres of the feathers of the mantle and wings, blackish; chin, abdomen, and under tail-coverts white, slightly washed with yellow; throat and breast, bright yellow, strongly suffused on the breast with golden-rufous; beak: upper mandible brown, lower mandible flesh colour, which is also the colour of the legs and feet. The female differs but little from the male, her colours are not of quite so rich a hue, and the blacks and white of her plumage are not so pure and also slightly mottled.

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THE FESTIVE TANAGER (*Calliste festiva*).

This is a very beautiful species and was first exhibited by Mr. Maxwell at the L.C.B.A. December Show. Of the many species which adorn this gorgeous genus this is certainly not the least beautiful. Briefly, the general body colouring is iridescent grass-green; sides of face and upper neck golden-copper colour; crown, glistening blue. A beautiful and uncommon species, of which another specimen has since come into the possession of one of our members.

Time only permits me to pass the other notabilities very briefly in review, many of them were however, described in last volume. THE INDIAN SUNBIRD; Mr. Townsend's YELLOW-WINGED SUGAR BIRD was exquisite; I have never seen a finer specimen, the richness and purity of the colouring of its silky and iridescent plumage being simply beyond description; the same applies to his beautiful BLACK-FACED SUGAR BIRD, a much larger species. Passing to the All Species Class, which mostly contains a series of interesting and beautiful birds. The Birds of Paradise have been already mentioned; the bird which most appealed to me was Mr. Millsum's very fine BLACK-THROATED LAUGHING-THRUSH, evidently a most interesting bird and full of character.

The other principal exhibits were fine specimens of GREATER HILL MYNAH, SHAMA, GOLDEN-CROWNED TROUPIAL, COLEYS or MOUSEBIRDS, INDIAN BARBET, and last, but not least, Mr. Maxwell's very fine WALLCREEPER, which carried off premier honours.

Mr. H. T. T. Camps judged the Parrot and Parrakeet Classes and Mr. W. Swaysland the remainder.

BUDGERIGARS, AND ALL SPECIES OF LOVEBIRDS AND HANGING PARRAKEETS (15). 1, Maxwell, Red-headed Hanging Parrakeet, a beautiful and uncommon exhibit, not yet in perfect condition; 2, Mrs. C. Cooper, Yellow Budgerigars, perfect, well shown; 3, Mrs. J. Leach, Yellow Budgerigars; 4, S. M. Townsend, Red-headed Hanging Parrot, an uncommon exhibit; vhc, True, Red-faced Lovebird, very fine; hc, Millsum, Guiana Lovebirds, very rare, a little rough, very hardly treated; c, Mrs. Hodgkin.

ALL SPECIES OF PARRAKEETS, *including* KINGS, BROADTAILS AND LORIES (20). A very fine series, but many of them were by no means in perfect plumage, some evidently not having left the dealers long. 1, Maxwell, very rare Crimson-fronted Lorikeets, a trifle soft, at the same time a unique exhibit, will be very handsome when they have been through the moult, the general body colour is bronzy-green with yellow and orange-yellow shaft streaks on the nape and underparts, head and nape blackish, frontal band scarlet, thighs and vent scarlet; 2, L. W. Hawkins, Stanley Parrakeets, in good condition but not nearly so rich in colour as they will be when fully mature: 3, Mrs. Tremlett, King Parrakeet, very rich in colour and in perfect condition, quite one of the best I have seen; 4, c, Cooper, Varied Lorikeet, a beautiful exhibit; vhc, F. Howe, fine Chattering Lory; H. H. Cooper, Red-vented Blue Bonnets; hc, W. Cook, Ornamental Lorikeet, an uncommon exhibit, good colour and very tight; L. W. Hawkins, Blue Bonnet; c, Cushney, Redrumps; Hollins, very fine Port Lincoln.

ALL SPECIES OF PARROTS, COCKATOOS AND MACAWS (7). 1, Rev. H. D. Astley, Purple-breasted Parrot (*Triclaria cyanogaster*), a very rare and unique exhibit which I believe to be not merely the only one in England but the only one in Europe; 2, L. W. Hawkins, Black-headed Caique, in good condition and well shown; 3, Hollins, very fine Leadbeater Cockatoo; 4, L. J. Arrighi, good Senegal Parrot*; vhc, Mason, perfect Blue-fronted Amazon; hc, Cushney, another Blue-front, attracting considerable attention by its very realistic laughing, crying, etc.; c, Rev. J. Crawford, very good Roseate Cockatoo.

AVADAVATS, COMMON WAXBILLS, WEAVERS, ETC. (15). 1, Leavers, very perfect Diamond Sparrow; 2, Meadows, Green Avadavats, sleek and tight; 3, Hollins, very large Grey Java Sparrows; 4, F. Howe, St. Helena Waxbills, very fine, quite one of the best pairs I have seen; vhc, c, F. Howe, good Diamond and Nutmeg Finches; hc, L. McWade, good pair Combassous; also exhibited: Rhodesian Ribbon Finches, Bib Finches, Indian Silverbills, Avadavats and Orange-cheeked Waxbills, all in very good condition; a very pleasing and interesting array of the freely imported Ornamental Finches.

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* In Catalogue as Black-headed Caique.

ALL SPECIES OF WAXBILLS, GRASSFINCHES, WEAVERS, ETC. (23). 1, R. J. Watts, very good Queen Whydah; 2, 3, 4, vhc, Maxwell, a grand series, all in fine condition, Violet-eared Waxbills, Dufresne's, Black-cheeked and Blue-breasted Waxbills; vhc, Hollins, very perfect pair of Red-headed Finches; F. Howe, very richly-coloured Violet-eared Waxbill; hc, Hawkins, very perfect Pin-tailed Nonpareils; Beaty, good Gouldian Finch; c, Whyte, good Pin-tailed Whydah; Mrs. Galloway, Parrot Finches; also exhibited: Scaly-crowned Finch, very hard lines; Dufresne's Blue-breasted and Violet-eared Waxbill; Fire Finches, etc. A varied and interesting class.

ALL SPECIES GROSBEAKS, TRUE FINCHES, BUNTINGS, CARDINALS, ETC. (16). 1, Maxwell, Sepoy Finch, very fit but lacking the beautiful geranium-red of the wild bird; 2, H. E. Bliss, Africian Golden-breasted Bunting, very rare and beautiful, the yellow throat and white facial streaks being very striking; 3, Mrs. E. Galloway, good Olive Cuba Finch; 4, S. M. Townsend, rare Cape Rock Bunting; vhc, F. Howe, perfect Green Cardinal; hc, Watts, pair Yellow-billed Cardinals, evidently two cocks, a Black-throated and a Brown-throated one; c, Cook, Nonpareil Bunting, good condition. A pair of Cutthroats were entered here and the judge failed to note they were in the wrong class.

ALL SPECIES TANAGERS, SUGAR BIRDS, SUNBIRDS, ETC. (15). 1, spl, 2, vhc, Maxwell, Indian Sunbird, Festive and Black-backed Tanagers, a grand team but a trifle lucky, the first-named appeared as if it would hardly survive the show; 3, 4, S. M. Townsend, Black-faced and Yellow-winged Sugar Birds, in excellent condition and hardly treated. In my opinion the remarkably fine and rich colouration, and absolutely faultless condition of the latter should have secured it premier honours; vhc, hc, c, Dewhurst, Mason and Watts in the order named, all Superb Tanagers, and very fit, but the writer regrets that colour feeding should have crept in with a species so gorgeous in its natural colouration which is easily retained in full brilliancy in captivity. This class for gorgeous, tropical colouring is worth a long journey to see, but it was not so varied as usual, half the exhibits being Superbs, which have been quite common of late, that is, if the term "common" is permissable of anything Superb.

ALL SPECIES NOT COMPRISED IN THE ABOVE (18). Always an interesting class; the exhibits claiming most attention from the public being the King Birds of Paradise, of which there were two, neither of which were perfect, one having lost both the long tail plumes (or wires), and the other one. Most of the species in this class were birds full of character and are ideal cage birds. 1, 2, Maxwell, Wall Creeper (surely a class of "A.S. Continental" should be provided at the National for such birds) and King Bird of Paradise, both in very finest condition, save that the last-named had lost one of its wires; 3, Miss Watts, good Shâma; 4, A. Brown, very fine Hill Mynah; vhc, Millsum, Black-throated Laughing Thrush, a beautiful and attractive exhibit; Cook, Golden-crowned Troupial, an uncommon exhibit; Victor Williams, King Bird of Paradise, minus the tail wires, otherwise very fit; hc, Dewhurst, 2, African Coley and Indian Barbet, the latter a beautiful and interesting bird, of bright grass-green body colouring, variegated with crimson on top of head, and black, blue, etc., adorning the wings, sides of face, etc.; c, Gaving, Australian Swallow; Miss Hopwood, Rosy Pastor, well-known exhibit, being now nearly twelve years old, and looking very sleek and trim; also exhibited: Glossy Starling, Brazilian Hangnest, various Mynahs, etc. An interesting and varied class.

I regret the incompleteness of these notes, and also the lack of all reference to the British birds, but was only able to get a half-day at the Palace, and so many members, etc. were present that serious note taking was almost an impossibility. W. T. P.

The Winners of Club Medals were:—

In the Parrot Classes: Mr. J. T. Hollins, for his Leadbeater Cockatoo.
In the remaining Classes: Mr. H. E. Bliss, for his Golden-breasted Bunting.

Reviews and Notices of New Books.

Rambles of an Australian Naturalist, written by PAUL FOUNTAIN from the Notes and Journals of Thomas Wood. London, JOHN MURRAY.

So many of the most attractive aviary birds are natives of Australia, that a book of this kind, which deals in an informal, popular style with all the common birds and mammals of the island continent, appeals strongly to the British aviculturist.

The first bird mentioned is Swainson's Lorikeet, generally known, as well in New South Wales as in Great Britain, as the Blue Mountain Lory.

"It is tolerably abundant in the interior parts of the colony; and its beautiful plumage does not save it from being shot for the table. It is a honey-sucker, and for that reason many persons think that its flesh is superior in flavour to that of other parrots.

"The crop of this bird is nearly always full of a sort of nectar which it extracts with its tongue from the sweet blossoms of the native honeysuckle; and probably from many other flowers; but it is a mistake to suppose, as many naturalists seem do, that it does not consume more solid food; for

I have seen it eating many kinds of bush fruits. It also eats the flower of the honeysuckle bodily; and frequents the gardens of the western settlers for the plums and cherries which they delight to cultivate.

"Many of the habits of Swainson's Lorikeet greatly resemble those of pigeons. For instance, they go in pairs, and these pairs frequently join with others to form small flocks of ten or a dozen couples; and on occasions which seem to be dependent on a peculiar state of the weather, they collect in large flocks of one or two thousand. All their habits may be noticed in tree-frequenting species of pigeons. The lorikeet, as well as some other parrots, flies much like a pigeon. . . . . They are capable of enduring a considerable degree of cold, and are often at a great height in the mountains of all parts of New South Wales. I have several times seen flocks of them flying about in snow storms. They have, however, a great dislike to rain, and in wet weather hide away in hollow trees and under the broad leaves of palms and other plants. They breed in hollow trees, like the majority of parrots, but I watched one pair which reared their brood in a hole excavated with remarkable expedition in the bulky stem of a grass tree not six feet from the ground. The eggs are usually two or four in number, and the few pairs of young birds which I have taken and reared were always couples—a cock and a hen. The old birds are very attentive to the the young, and affectionate among themselves; and the young are fed with the syrup, or honey, which the old birds get from their crops for the purpose. This syrup is, I suppose, partially digested, a circumstance which may account for the difficulty which is experienced in rearing the young birds on artificial syrup or bee's honey, but they will thrive on soft, pulpy fruit."

The author considers nearly all the Australian parrots to be partly insectivorous, and says he has often seen Cockatoos with large beetles in their claws.

Passing over the account of the Lyre-bird, the Emu and the Brush Turkey—which though most interesting in themselves are not birds with which our readers are likely to have a personal acquaintance—we find, in a chapter on the Fauna of Western Australia, some notes on parrots which we cannot refrain from extracting.

"The cockatoos and parrots are the most characteristic birds of the district. They are most abundant in the interior, especially where the trees form woods and groves. There are at least eight spieces or varieties of cockatoos in the country between Swan River and Shark Bay. The commonest is the Sulphur-crested (*Cacatua galerita*) which, in some parts of the country, especially where the rivers are edged with mangrove thickets, may be seen in flocks so great that the trees look as if covered with masses of white wool. If these huge flocks, which on the Gascoigne sometimes number thirty or forty thousand birds, are fired at, the screaming they set up is deafening. There are two varieties of the Black Cockatoo—

Calyptorhynchus xanthonotus with a yellow-banded tail, and a variety with a red-banded tail, the plumage of both being a bright shiny black."

There are seven species of *Calyptorhynchus* mentioned in the British Museum Catalogue besides the Great Black Cockatoo, which is put in a separate genus.

"These birds are not nearly so abundant as the white kind, and do not go in large flocks. It is rare to see more than twenty or thirty together; but occasionally they assemble in flocks of a few hundreds, I think for the purpose of migration. Both kinds of those Cockatoos called slender-bills (*Licmetis nasica* and *L. pastinator*) are found in the Swan River district in considerable numbers, and are still more abundant in the Champion River locality and further north. The beautiful pink *Cacatua leadbeateri* is occasionally seen in the inland parts of the Swan River districts, and has been shot near Perth, while the still handsomer *C. rosecicapilla*, with the brilliant rose-coloured breast and gray back and wings is abundant enough, especially about Champion Bay and Gascoigne River."

It seems odd to describe the common and despised Roseate Cockatoo as being 'still handsomer' than the lovely Leadbeater—but there is no accounting for taste.

"A kind of crested parrokeet, the Cockatiel (*Calopsittacus novæ-hollandiæ*) with plumage of grey and yellow and white markings on the head and wings, is found in many localities, and is a great favourite with the colonists on account of its gentle ways and pleasing tricks; and this parrot and the rose-crested cockatoo are two of the birds most frequently kept in their houses as pets. The cockatiel frequently manifests great affection for its master; and has been known to pine to death when the hand which used to feed it has been suddenly removed by death."

"In its habits the Rosella greatly resembles the grass parrokeets, and is quite as often seen on the ground as in the trees, and is not infrequently seen perched on the back of cattle, when it evidently searches for the parasites which infest the hides of the animals. For this parrot is nearly carnivorous, and will eat animal food as freely as it does grain. The farmers say it does much mischief to their corn crops; but I have proved conclusively that it is not grain only that attracts to ground that is under cultivation. It preys largely on the larvæ of insects of the grass-hopper kind, which also prefer to haunt cultivated ground probably on account of its looseness. The farmers are therefore in error in destroying this bird, which they do without mercy. Many are caught in traps bated with meat, which they eat eagerly, and in confinment will take in preference to any other kind of food. The bird goes in flocks of considerable size in districts where it has not been persecuted. I have seen perhaps four or five hundred together; but when feeding the flocks scatter very much, as all ground-feeding Australian parrots do." H. R. F.

PETS AND HOW TO KEEP THEM. By FRANK FINN, B.A., F.Z.S. With 12 coloured plates and many reproductions of photos from life. HUTCHINSON & Co., Paternoster Row, 1907.

This is certainly one of the handiest little compendiums that has been published for some time; it is most interesting reading and embraces the whole of the vertebrata. The text is divided into three parts as follows:

Part I. MAMMALS.
,, II. CAGE, GARDEN, PARK, AND AVIARY BIRDS.
,, III. COLD-BLOODED ANIMALS.

While we cannot agree with all the directions given, as for instance, milk-sop for parrots, etc., yet it is a most readable and useful book, well illustrated and full of interest from cover to cover.

BIRDS OF BRITAIN: with 100 coloured plates and 399 pages of text. By J. LEWIS BONHOTE, M.A., F.L.S., F.Z.S. A. & C. BLACK, Soho Square, London.

A worthy addition to the already long list of Monographs on our native AVIFAUNA. It is sumptuously illustrated, and the life histories of the various species fully and interestingly written. Plumage, sexual distinctions (this might with advantage have been more descriptive), nest, eggs, and characteristics, all are fully described, and as a whole it is not merely instructive, but most entertainingly written. It does not need the Author's statement that his observations are taken from Nature, this being evident on every page. Perhaps the one blemish is, that the records of the number of appearances of the rarer species is not fully up to date. The book should be in the library of every lover and student of our Native Birds.

THREE VOYAGES OF A NATURALIST. By M. J. NICHOL, M.B.O.U.

We have received a leaflet announcing the publication of this work by Messrs. WITHERBY & Co. The Author was Naturalist on the Earl of Crawford's yacht "Valhalla" during these voyages. Most of the Islands explored were previously very little known, and others had rarely, if ever, been landed upon. The Birds met with during the Voyages are fully described by the Author, who is a well-known Ornithologist. The work is Illustrated: 56 full page reproductions of photos taken during the respective crusies.

THE BIRD KEEPER'S GUIDE*: Messrs. Trower, the Bird-food Specialists, have issued a most useful and reliable little pamphlet, under the above title, and the joint authorship of Messrs. Allen Silver and T. R. Trower. The features of the treatise are: Trivial and scientific names, habitat, size and type of cage; food, and its merits as a songster and exhibition bird. These particulars are given concerning nearly every known species of

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* The Bird Keeper's Guide. 6d. TROWER & Co., 442, Caledonian Road, London, N.

British Cage Bird and a large number of foreigners. It certainly forms one of the handiest and most reliable beginners' guide yet published. A well arranged index completes the whole and make the information it imparts instantly accessible. Its one blemish is the mis-spelling of many of the scientific names. This little booklet should make a useful addition to every bird-keeper's bookshelf.

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES LEAFLETS: No. 204. "Apple Tree Mildew" is to hand, consisting of clear and concise directions for prevention and eradication of this great pest of all apple gardens and orchards. It should be in the hands of all the fortunate possessors of gardens and orchards. A list of the leaflets already issued, arranged in groups, is also to hand, of which we name a few of the groups:—

Poultry and Bees, their Breeding and Management.
Farm and Garden Crops.
Wild Animals, Birds, etc.
Insect and other Pests, other than Bush and Orchard Fruit.
Insect and other Pests injurious to Fruit Trees and Bushes, and to Fruit Trees.
Fungi injurious to Crops and Trees.

Copies of the various leaflets may be obtained free of charge and post free on application to the Secretary, Board of Agriculture and Fisheries, 4, Whitehall Place, London, S.W. Letters of application so addressed need not be stamped.

Other recent issues are:—

A Book of Birds, by W. P. Pycraft. (Sydney Appleton).
British Bird Life, by W. Percival Westell, with an introduction by the Rt. Hon. Sir H. Maxwell, Bart., F.R.S. It contains 60 illustrations. (T. Fisher Unwin).

W. T. P.

Editorial.

THE THICK-BILLED SPIDER HUNTER (*Arachnothera crassirostris*).—Has this bird ever been imported? I cannot call to mind any instance of a specimen having reached this country alive; it belongs to the family NECTARINIDÆ. Mr. A. L. Butler found a nest of this bird at Kepong, in Selangor. The nest, an oval structure 11 ins. long and 5½ ins. in diameter, sewn to the underside of a large plantain leaf, and composed entirely of dried plantain fibre. The entrance was at the side against the leaf, which formed part of the back wall of the nest; it contained two fresh eggs, pure white, with a broad zone formed by a tangled confusion of very slender lines of a blackish-brown pigment, the tracery being both fantasti and beautiful. Size of eggs $\frac{25}{32}$ x $\frac{9}{16}$ and $\frac{13}{16}$ x $\frac{19}{32}$.

RARE BIRDS AT THE ZOO: Mr. A. Pam, who, in conjunction with his brother, has been the generous donor of Humming Birds and many other rare and uncommon Neotropical Birds to the Zoo, has again recently presented another valuable series, many of which are new to the Collection. The Collection has been further enriched by a presentation from the Hon. C. Willoughby of some thirty South African Birds, only one of which is however new to the Collection.

* Sonnini's Colins
* Black-capped Bulbul
* Olive Saltators
Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Macqueen's Bustards

Emerald Tanagers
All Green ,,
Blue-winged ,,
Orange-browed ,,
* Desmarest's ,,
Brazilian ,,

Yellow-winged Sugar Birds
Green Toucanets
Sauternine Mocking Bird
Mexican or Green Jay
Brazilian Hangnests
* Scarlet Cardinal
Rufous Pigeons

Also Grenadier, Orange, Taha, and Black-fronted Weaver Birds; Long and Pin-tailed Whydahs, and Talpacoti and Scaly Doves.

THE BLACK-CAPPED OR LAYARD'S BULBUL (*Pycnonotus layardi*): This species is new to the Collection, and is certainly not one of the least interesting of this fine group. It ranges over practically the whole of South Africa, while on the Eastern Coast it spreads as far north as Kilima-Njaro and Mombasa. The general body colouring is various shades of brown, paler on the underparts, becoming ashy-white on the lower breast and abdomen; crown, sides of face and chin, black; under tail-coverts, yellow. From the records of various Naturalists we learn that the nest is cup-shaped, and mostly placed in the fork of a tree; the clutch of three or four pinkish white eggs are blotched and spotted with purple-brown and grey. Though not of brilliant plumage, it is nevertheless a handsome and striking bird. The female is similar as to plumage, but slightly duller in hue.

THE OLIVE SALTATOR (*Saltator olivescens*). Also new to the Collection, and another somewhat plainly clad, yet handsome species. Hab., Venezuela, Trinidad, and Northern Colombia. The general body colouring is cinerous, much paler on the under-surface; wings and tail blackish, most of the feathers edged with pale cinerous; middle of throat white, broadly flanked on either side with black; lower part of abdomen and ventral region, ochraceous. Bold and handsome birds, should not be associated with smaller or weaker species.

SONNINI'S CRESTED QUAIL OR COLIN (*Eupsychortyx sonninii*): A handsome and rare species; all the Quails are of much interest, and mostly soon become accustomed to captivity and are very ready to reproduce their kind; conditionally of course upon suitable environment being given them. One of the main conditions necessary, in fact almost a *sine qua non* being growing grass. It is ruddy-brown above, variegated with brown and buff; the under parts are rufous, mottled with black; chest, pale vinaceous. Hab., Venezuela, Trinidad, and Northern Colombia. *New to the Collection.*

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* *New to the Collection.*

MEXICAN or GREEN JAY (*Xanthura luxuosa*): One of the finest of this handsome group, scarcely one of which merit the designation plain, but this is a bold, handsome and really beautiful species. The general body colouring is green, with centre of abdomen yellow; the outer tail feathers are also partially yellow; the head is variegated with black and blue. Hab., Southern Texas and Mexico. It does not appear to have been represented in the Gardens since 1877.

DESMAREST'S GREEN TANAGER (*Calliste desmaresti*): A rare and beautiful species from Northern Venezuela and Trinidad. Adult male: Rich shining grass-green; head, rich glossy chestnut; wings and tail blackish, broadly margined with bright green; beak, legs and feet, dark brown. Total length 4¾ inches, tail 1¾ inches. *New to the Collection.*

BLUE-WINGED TANAGER (*Calliste cyanoptera*). An exceedingly beautiful species from Venezuela. *Adult male:* Head, neck, sides of face, chin, throat and upper breast black, with violaceous reflections; wings and tail deep bluish-black, edged with blue; remainder of upper and under parts golden straw colour, suffused with light green on sides of breast and lower back; upper tail-coverts, light green; beak, black; legs and feet, brownish-black. Total length 5½ inches, tail 2 inches. In general appearance this species bears a close resemblance to the Sugar Birds (*Dacnis*); it is however a little larger and more stoutly built. Hab., Venezuela.

SCARLET CARDINAL (*Cardinalis phœniceus*). This species far surpasses the well-known and beautiful Virginian Cardinal for brilliancy of plumage. It has a truly regal appearance, being nearly as rich in colour as the Scarlet Tanager. The Rev. H. D. Astley has possessed this species, but if I remember rightly it was while he was staying in Italy some few years ago, and I do not think his two specimens lived long enough to accompany him to this country: thus it would appear that this specimen is not merely *new to the Collection*, but the first imported to this country.

These two presentations form an interesting addition to the series of rare birds at the Zoo, and to those interested in such, an observant examination of same occupies a good portion of time. Lack of space prevents notice of many of the fine species included therein; however many of them have already been described in back issues of *Bird Notes*.

CHESTNUT-BACKED TANAGER (*Calliste pretiosa*): While on the subject of rare Tanagers, it may be well to briefly note one of which I have never seen a living specimen, and which I do not think has been imported to this country. It is a native of Southern Brazil and in my opinion one of the most beautiful of this gorgeous genus. *Adult male:* Head and neck to middle of back, rich coppery-chestnut, with a golden sheen on the crown and ear-coverts; lower back and wing coverts, rich ochraceous tinged with green; wing and tail black, edged with bluish; under parts grass-green, merging into bluish-green on the lower abdomen; vent, chestnut; beak, legs, and feet, brownish-black. Total length 6¼ inches, tail 2¼ inches. The female is quite distinct from the male. Upper parts dark green, suffused with chestnut on the head, neck, and upper back; wings and tail black, edged with green; underparts pale green, with the middle of abdomen whitish; ventral region, rufous. The skin is gorgeous, the living bird must be beautiful beyond description; under the influence of light the hues of its plumage must be ever changing.

A ST. HELENA SEED-EATER × CANARY HYBRID: Capt. Sherard Reeve informs me that last year the above hybrid was successfully reared in his aviary; it still lives and is a very fine bird. In response to my request for further details the following has come to hand. "The hen canary is a "very dark coloured one, being brown on wings and back. They had "about four nests in all and so far as I could make out only one egg on each "occasion; they hatched out once previously but the fledgeling was thrown "out of the nest while very young. The young one reared was the result "of their third attempt, and does not at all resemble the Seed-eater. Its "head and wings resemble the hen, but the back, top of tail and breast, "have thrown back to light canary-yellow. It was hatched end of July; "chiefly fed by the cock and was reared on ants' eggs, chopped egg and "biscuit, and green food. It left the nest on August 12th, when the hen "began to sit again. I am inclined to think it is a hen."

THE CLUB'S CERTIFICATES: The following have been awarded:

Miss Rosa Little, for breeding Swainson's Lorikeet for the first time for nearly 30 years in this country.

W. E. Teschemaker, for breeding the Chingolo Sparrow for the first time in this country.

Miss Drummond, for breeding a hybrid Java Sparrow × Silverbill for the first time in this country.

Will those who have been awarded Certificates note that the delay in sending them out has been owing to getting them designed. The design is now complete and all will be distributed by end of this month or early in April at latest.

Correspondence.

THE GREY BULBUL.

SIR,—I have just obtained a Grey Bulbul, supposed to be the White-Browed Bush Bulbul (*Ixos virescens*). It is a grey green all over; vent, lemon yellow, and bottom of breast pale green, top white, yellow under throat and white eyebrow with black streak running through. Is it rare? Please tell me what you can about it. (Mrs.) E. WARREN VERNON.

* * *

[So far as your description is complete, your bird appears to be the one described below, the particulars of which I have gleaned from Jerdon's Birds of India. It is uncommon, in fact, rare on the British and Continental Markets, but has been known at the Zoological Gardens since 1880 or thereabouts I believe (am speaking from memory.)]

White-Browed Bush Bulbul.

Jerdon. *Ixos luteolus.* } Native
Temminck. *Ixos virescens.* } *Poda-pigh.*

"*Description.*—Above dull brownish olive green, palest in the head, where it is slightly ashy, and yellowish on the rump; quills and coverts edged with brighter green; over the eye to the ear-coverts, and from the base of the upper mandible extending below the eye, obscure white; chin and base of lower mandible, pale clear yellow; lower parts whitish ashy, tinged with pale yellow; the breast darker with browish grey, and the vent and under tail-coverts pale yellow.

Bill blackish; legs dark plumbeous; irides blood-red; length 7½″, wing 3½″, tail 3½″."

This is a tolerably common bird in many parts of the South of India; rare in others. It is not found in the forests of Malabar, but in low jungle in that province it is common, and on the skirts of forests occasionally. In the Carnatic it is tolerably common in bushy jungle, and even in gardens, in wooded districts; also throughout the northern Circais to Gromsoor; and Tickall found it in Central India. It is not however known at Jubbulpore, Saugore, Nagpore, nor Mhow, nor in the bare tableland of the Deccan.

It associates less in flocks than most of the family, being usually seen alone, but it avoids observation, and keeps to the thickets. It flies about from bush to bush with a fine loud, clear, thrush-like warble, and feeds entirely on fruit of various kinds. I found the nest in my garden at Wellore. It was rather loosely made with roots, grain and hair, placed in a hedge; and the eggs, four in number, were reddish-white, with darker lake-red spots, exceedingly like those of the common Bulbul.

"I see that the *Ixos virescens* of Temminck, which in my Catalogue I considered the same in this bird, now ranks as an *Hypsipsetes*."

[I am sure an account and full description of this bird would be of general interest, if Mrs. Warren Vernon will kindly supply same.—Ed.]

THE SHAMA AND RUBY THROAT.

Sir,—Will any member kindly give experience of hen Shama's description, and also if the cock bird is very violent towards her? I have a hen, at least the dealer asserts it is such; but the cock bird simply tries to kill her and I cannot let them be near each other. My hen is a dirty small faded brown looking bird, with a few chocolate feathers just shining on breast. I should think it is about six or nine months old.

[This bird is evidently immature, and from the attitude of your adult bird towards it, it would appear that it was a young male still in nestling plumage.—ED.]

I understood Mrs. Miller had the other, and if she would give me her experience I should be glad.

Please give all information *re* Ruby-Throat, which I have just obtained. Food, habitat, whether rare, etc. (Mrs.) E. W. VERNON.

* * *

Both the Common and White-tailed Ruby-throats are rare birds in captivity, and very uncommon in this country, though judging by advertisements in the Fancy press, quite a fair number have recently come to hand. I have never kept this species and cull the following notes from Jerdon's Birds of India.

THE COMMON RUBY-THROAT.

Calliope kamtschatkensis.

Adult male: Upper surface, olive-brown; sides of head black, crossed above and below the eyes by whitish bands; throat, ruby red; breast, ashy; abdomen, whitish; flanks, olive-brown; bill, horn colour; legs and feet, purplish; iris, dark brown. Total length 6 inches, of which the tail measures 2½ inches.

"The female has in general no trace of the ruby-throat, which is whitish and the "lores brown; but some old females have a tinge of the ruby-colour."

It is a shy and retiring bird, solitary and silent; frequenting thickets and underwood. It feeds on the ground on various insects. This charming bird is found principally in Northern and Central India, and is a cold weather visitant in Bengal and Eastern India. It extends throughout Central and Northern Asia and occasional specimens have been killed in Europe.

* * *

THE WHITE-TAILED RUBY-THROAT.

Calliope pectoralis.

This species is found throughout the Himalayas from Cashmere to Sikkim. It frequents thick brush-wood and comes to the road or open space to feed on insects. Jerdon describes the species as follows:

"General colour dark brownish ashy, with a white supercilium; lores black, and a "small moustachial spot white; the breast and sides of the throat black; and the chin "and middle of the throat and upper part of the neck bright glistening crimson; the "belly, vent, and under tail-coverts white, ashy on the flanks and mixed with dusky on "tail-coverts; tail white on the basal half, except the centre pair, and white tipped, also "some white on the outer web of the outermost feathers. In winter the black of the "breast is broadly edged with grey, and the red of the throat is less intense; the back too "is not so dark. The female is plain olive-brown, paler on the breast, and whitish on the "throat and belly; supercilia pale rufescent, there is much less white at the base of the "tail, and the terminal spots are light rufescent. Bill dusky; legs pale reddish-brown; "irides, dark brown. Total length 6 inches, tail 2¾."

Oates calls this species the Himalayan Ruby-throat, and states that but little is known of its nidification.

An account and description of Mrs. Warren Vernon's bird from her pen would be of general interest. W. T. PAGE.

A SISKIN'S RETURN TO CONFINEMENT.

SIR,—A Siskin (♂) which was only caught last September, has since been an occupant of one of my garden aviaries. As is common with the species it soon became very tame—so much so—that getting in and out of the aviary to attend to the birds became a matter of some difficulty, without letting the Siskin escape. Recently this happened, but it only remained at liberty a few hours. During this brief period it explored the adjacent gardens pretty thoroughly. On a pan of seed being placed near the aviary door, it at once came down to same, and on the aviary door being opened it promptly flew in, and appeared again to be fully contented, which was certainly not the case while it was at liberty. Though flying to quite a distance and at times quite lost sight of, the greater part of the time it was on or about the aviary, striving to obtain an entrance. Its return was quite voluntary, no attempt being made to trap it. "SISKIN."

[An interesting episode, but not at all uncommon with this and kindred species.—ED.]

PRELIMINARY NOTICE: A LARGE CONSIGNMENT OF AUSTRALIAN BIRDS.

Mr. WALLACE, of the firm of PAYNE & WALLACE, the well known bird trappers, with his colleagues has been engaged during the past twelve months on a bird collecting expedition, covering a distance of about 26 thousand miles. They have met with good success and are now returning to Bath with a collection of about 4000 birds, being due about April. Lists are being sent out, and they invite all who can to visit them at the Little Zoo, Lyncombe Hill, Bath, when they will be pleased, not only to show them the birds, but also to demonstrate how the bushmen catch and care for such a large and varied shipment.

This large and varied array of the Australian *avifauna* will contain the following rarities, etc. :—Painted Finch (*Emblema picta*), Fawn-breasted Kingfisher (*Dacelo cervina*), Sacred Kingfisher, Emus, Spotted Emus, Red-rumped Kingfisher, White-fronted Falcon, Striped Brown Hawks, Silvery-crowned Friar Birds, Crimson-wing, King, Earl Stanley and Rock Parrakeets. Sulphur-crested and other Cockatoos, Dusky Minahs, Doves, Pigeons, Red-headed Gouldians and all the usual Grassfinches. All who visit them will have a feast of beauty and the sight of a lifetime, in this gathering of Australian bird life at the Little Zoo, Bath.—(*Advt.*)

Just on going to press, particulars come to hand of a claim by Messrs.

Payne and Wallace against the G. W. Railway Company for loss owing to delay and rough handling in transit. We are glad to note that they were successful, and obtained a verdict for the amount claimed with costs. The judgment is of some importance, and should tend to procure for live birds and animals more careful handling and a more speedy delivery by the various Railway Companies, etc.

Post Mortem Reports.

(Vide Rules).

BUFF COCK CANARY. (Miss Gibbins). Cause of death, pneumonia.

COCKATIEL. (Lady Helen Dunn). Cause of death, inflammation of lungs.

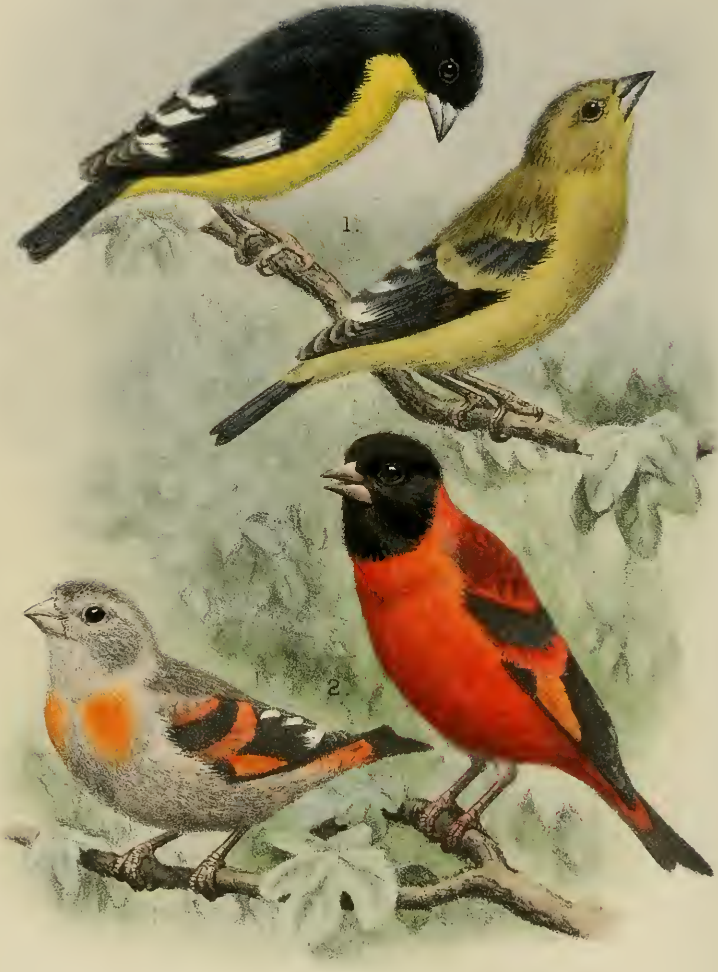
SHAMA. (T. Miller). Cause of death, chronic enteritis; the bird was very emaciated.

COCK MEALEY ROSELLA. (T. N. Wilson). Cause of death, acute septic enteritis.

Answered by Post:

The Hon. Mary C. Hawke.
Dr. H. Hetley.

H. GRAY, M.R.C.V.S.



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1 COLOMBIAN SISKIN. 2 HOODED SISKIN.

Chrysomitris colombiana. Chrysomitris cucullata

From living specimens in the Zoological Gardens.

All rights reserved]. [April, 1908.

BIRD NOTES:

— THE —

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

Siskins.

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S.

This is a large and most interesting genus, of pleasing appearance; most of the species are of more than average merit as songsters. All of them make ideal cage birds, are equally desirable for the aviary, and the rarer species equally so for exhibition.

It has a wide range and is to be found in almost every quarter of the globe. Dr. Bowdler Sharpe catalogues twenty-four distinct species as follows: *tristis*, *yarelli*, *spinescens*, *sclateri*, *atriceps*, *spinoides*, *psaltria*, *mexicana*, *colombiana*, *xanthogaster*, *stajnegori*, *uropygialis*, *atrata*, *spinus*, *barbata*, *icterica*, *notata*, *forreri*, *nigriceps*, *lawreneii*, *cucullata*, *thibetana*, *pinus*, *citrinelloides*, *melanops*, *citrinella*, and *totta*.

I do not propose taking the species in the order given, but simply in this paper describing those which have been imported, completing the list in some future issue.

The Hooded Siskins (*vide plate* ♂ and ♀).

(*Chrysomitris cucullata*).

This is one of the finest of the species, and even Mr. Goodchild's fine drawing scarcely does justice to the richness of its brilliant plumage. The attitude portrayed is a very natural and characteristic one, and conveys a good idea of the charming vivacity of this beautiful species. It is a songster of more than average merit, sweet, sustained and unmarred by shrill notes. The species has done well at the Zoo, and those now in the Small Bird's House are confiding and altogether charming little fellows.

In Trinidad charming mules have been bred between it and the Canary; so far the species has not been bred in the United Kingdom, and is very uncommon in this country.

Habitat: Venezuela and Trinidad, also Cuba, and Porto Rico by introduction.

Adult male: The general body colour is fiery orange-vermilion of varying intensity; quills and tail-feathers black, slightly tinted with reddish; practically the whole of the head is deep black; beak greyish-horn colour; legs and feet reddish-grey. Total length 4 inches, tail 1 inch.

Adult female: General body colour greyish-brown; wings black, with three patches of orange vermilion crossing same and secondaries tipped with white; sides of breast, rump, upper and under tail-coverts orange vermilion; beak greyish-brown; legs and feet reddish-grey.

I have seen more than one specimen at the Zoo more fiery in hue than the figure depicted on plate.

Mr. H. D. Astley found mules between this species and the Canary rather numerous and had one in his possession for a time. In Vol. VIII., *Avicultural Magazine*, he describes it as follows:

> "The hybrid takes very much after the Canary (wild) than after the "'Cardenal.'* It is the shape and size of the former, with its song almost "reproduced. In colour, it is just as if you took a Wild Canary and dipped "it into a dye-pot of saffron-orange. The green-yellow of the Canary tem-"pers the orange, and tones it down; and a very pretty bird is the con-"sequence. He has a suspicion of a darker head than a Canary, but nothing "so marked as his fathers! The Wild Canary is the commonest bird in "this island; and its song about makes one think one is perpetually passing "by some out-door aviaries! You see them in large flocks like one sees "Linnets in England."

I have not up to the present had the opportunity of procuring this species, but hope to do so at any early date. I have, however, made a close study of them and also *C. colombiana*, and am of the opinion that this species would mate rather readily with any small variety of the domesticated Canary, and very pleasing hybrids would be the result. At any rate if any one became possessed of an odd bird of either sex, the experiment would be worth the trial. Given a roomy cage, or summer quarters out of doors, I should think they would be ready breeders.

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* The name by which the Hooded Finch is commonly known in Teneriffe.

Diet: Canary, millet, rape, crushed oats, lettuce seed with spray millet will supply an ample and changeful diet. Spray millet they are very fond of, and fresh, clean green food must be liberally supplied, especially blighty foliage.

Most of this genus which has been imported so far, appear to be rather delicate on arrival and require careful treatment till they become acclimatised.

Mr. Astley's praise of this species, "A most charming gay little bird," is most certainly fully merited, and one can only hope that the day is not far distant when they will be as freely imported as the genus *Serinus*.

The Rev. H. D. Astley was the first to introduce this species to English aviculture.

* * *

THE COLOMBIAN SISKIN (*vide plate* ♂ and ♀).
(*Chrysomitris colombiana*).

As will be seen from the well executed figures on the plate both sexes are handsome and pleasing birds, and they possess the Siskin trait of becoming charming and fearless almost at once. The originals, from which the figures were drawn, were a couple of the cheeriest and gayest little birds I ever came across, and certainly made the most of the limits of the cage they occupied, within the precincts of the Small Bird's House at the Zoo.

Adult male: Upper surface mostly bluish-black, slightly varied with olive-yellow bases to the feathers of the hind neck and mantle; the plumage of the rump is varied in the same manner but the bases are white; these variations are scarcely visible when the birds are at rest, but when seen is in an alert position the said variations impart a soft scaled appearance to these parts; wings and tail black; wing-coverts and primaries partially edged and tipped with white; top of head, lores, sides of face and ear-coverts black; the entire under-surface is bright yellow; beak greyish-horn colour, darkest at the tip; legs and feet greyish brown. Total length 4½ inches; tail 1½ inches.

Adult female: Upper surface dull olive-yellow; wings and tail blackish-olive; wing-coverts and primaries partially edged and tipped with white; entire under surface pale yellow, washed with olive in the centre of breast and abdomen; beak, legs and feet same as the male.

Habitat: Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador and Peru.

* * *

The American Siskin.

(*Chrysomitris tristis*).

This is a very brilliant species, a male in summer dress being a fine fellow indeed. Its brilliant Canary-yellow plumage makes it a conspicuous object in the out-door aviary, and an altogether charming bird in a mixed series.

In its native country it is well off for trivial names: The Goldfinch (*its most common appellation*), Wild Canary, Thistle Bird, Yellow Bird and Lettuce Bird, as well as the name by which it is principally known in this country The American Siskin. The following extracts are from H. Nearling's attractive book, "Our Native Birds of Song and Beauty."

> "It is an abundant and familiar species and is resident in the whole "of temperate North America.——The nest is a very neat cup-shaped "structure, composed of compactly woven plant fibres, etc., lined with "plant down and other soft materials, placed in tall bushes or low trees. "Eggs pale bluish or bluish white."

The same writer states that wild birds captured when adult rarely live more than a year when confined in a cage, that if taken young he has known them to live thirteen or more years under the conditions of cage life. He recommends a diet of Canary, flax, hemp, rape, oat-grits and lettuce seed, generally diminishing in favour in the order named.

Adult male: In summer dress or breeding plumage, the principal body colouring is brilliant Canary-yellow, with the wings, tail and top of head to middle of crown black, with lighter edges to most of the wing feathers; and the coverts and primaries narrowly edged or tipped with white; the inner edges of the ends of tail feathers are white; nape, mantle and back washed with olive; beak pinkish-flesh colour; legs and feet brownish-flesh colour. Total length 4½ inches full; tail 2 inches. It has a winter plumage, and is then a comparatively dingy bird compared with its gay summer attire. Principal body colouring earthy-brown, washed yellowish ; sides of face and throat yellow ; under surface whitish-yellow. From the specimens at the Brit. Museum it would appear that the breeding plumage is attained by a direct moult; if so, it must have both a spring and autumn moult.

Adult female : Upper surface olive-brown, strongly washed with green ; wings and tail less green edged with paler olive ; wing-coverts and primaries partially edged and tipped with white ; under surface pale yellow ; sides of neck and body greenish ; beak, legs and feet same as the male.

It has a pleasing and almost continuously uttered song. I think Mr. D. Seth-Smith was the first to introduce this species to English aviculture with birds imported by our esteemed member Mr. Swaysland. At the present time, or very recently, nice specimens were on view in the Small Bird's House at the Zoo.

* * *

The Black-Headed Siskin.

(*Chrysomtris icterica*).

Another fine Neotropical species which is fairly familiar at any rate to London Aviculturists, as a specimen or specimens have appeared at the principal exhibitions during the past few years. It is an inhabitant of Brazil, Argentina, Chili and Patagonia. Mr. V. Castellan appears to have been the first to bring this pleasing species to our notice in the avicultural press; he expresses the opinion that it is hardy and would do well in an aviary. There is not the least doubt upon this point (though most of this genus are far from robust on arrival), as one specimen has been exhibited the last three seasons at various London Shows, which I know is wintered in a cold room. The species only appears to come to hand at infrequent intervals and then only in small numbers ; I have only seen one female. A pair was exhibited at the Crystal Palace about two years ago, but unfortunately I failed to take complete notes of its plumage, so shall have to write as to its general appearance chiefly from memory.

Adult male : Upper surface mostly olive-yellow, thickly streaked with olive-green and blackish-brown ; rumps and upper tail-coverts bright yellow ; wings black, with the coverts, primaries and flights edged and tipped with bright yellow; tail feathers black, with yellow bases; entire head black; hind neck, sides of neck, fore neck and remainder of under surface bright yellow; beak, legs and feet blackish-horn. Total length 4½ inches, tail 1¾ inches. Adult female: My notes of the aforementioned specimen at the Crystal Palace Show only supply the following details. Whole of upper surface greyish-green, wings darker with lighter edges or tips and rump yellow; tail, dusky-brown; sides of face and under surface greyish, suffused with yellowish-green on the throat and ventral region. Slightly smaller than the male.

In a state of nature, according to the accounts of various travellers and naturalists, they build their nests in the hollows formed by the small branches attached to the larger limbs of trees. The nest is firmly and compactly woven, cup-shaped and lined with hair, down or feathers. This species is gregarious to the extent of keeping together in small flocks all the year round (so that if procurable it would appear that more than one pair would agree together in the same aviary) not even breaking up for the breeding season. It is one of the few species of open nest builders which lay white eggs. It has a pleasing and almost continuously uttered song, is lively, graceful, and confiding, while as an interesting species for either cage or aviary it has few equals.

(*To be continued*).

The Golden-breasted Bunting.

(*Emberiza flaviventris.*)

By H. E. Bliss.

I venture to give a few notes on the Golden-breasted Bunting (*Emberiza flaviventris*) with the hope that they may be of some assistance to those who possess one or more of these very interesting and beautiful birds. I merely wish to relate my experience with the bird that has been in my possession for some time without any wish to suggest that this is either the best, or the most suitable treatment for it. My bird has always thriven well and I therefore give my experience for what it is worth.

I had been on the look out for one of these birds for a long time, having heard what delightful pets they made; this I found to be quite true, for I have never seen birds so tame within a few days of being caught. Still more anxious was I to obtain one when I saw a pair in one of the public parks in Port Elizabeth, Cape Colony; they were in perfect condition and their yellow breasts of a particularly deep and rich colour. This pair, I have always thought, must have escaped from captivity as I never met this species again in the Port Elizabeth district. I never succeeded in getting quite the condition and "finish" on my bird that I should have liked, but I had a pair of Gouldians at this time which moulted out with such a perfect "bloom" on them that they quite put into the shade the very best appearance that my Bunting could ever produce.

One day I had the opportunity of buying a pair, but I was so pressed for room at the time that I only bought the cock bird, and I have regretted ever since that I did not find room somewhere for the hen as well. This bird was very tame and confiding from the first, although it had only been caught a couple of days, and it was not long before he would take insects from my fingers without any signs of nervousness or fear.

His likes and dislikes in the matter of food were very varied. I always fed him on plain canary seed with a little white millet and as many live insects as I had time to catch. On this treatment he was always in perfect health until the middle of last summer, by which time he had been some three months in this country. At that time I gave him mixed seed (as ordinarily sold in packets) instead of plain canary and shortly after he "went wrong" altogether, in fact I quite thought I should lose him. I at once put him on to plain canary seed, and in about a week he was quite himself again. Whether it was the mixed seed that upset him, or some insect that did not agree with him, I cannot say, but I took no more risks and fed him on plain canary seed which has kept him in perfect health ever since.

Green food he did not seem to care for: the only sorts that I have seen him eat being seeding grass and chickweed, and he would never eat much even of these. In the way of fruit, ripe plums and grapes I think were about the only ones he would touch; at times I have seen him eat some plum with great relish while at other times he would not touch it. I have no doubt he appreciated fruit all the more when the supply of live insects was restricted.

I tried him with one or two kinds of insectivorous food but they did not seem to appeal to his taste at all. Spiders, fresh ants' eggs, moths and smooth caterpillars were what he preferred to anything else, and, when these were not to be procured, house flies and dried ants' eggs were much appreciated. Mealworms I have never given him as I have always been able to procure a sufficient supply of other insects.

I have seen it stated that these Buntings are particularly fond of small beetles, but I must admit, as far as my limited experience goes, these and wood-lice were the very insects that my bird would have nothing to do with.

These birds are quite hardy; mine has spent most of his time in travelling—summer and winter—and has lived mostly in unheated rooms but never exposed to draughts, though he always seemed happier when hung out in the sun on a warm day or when kept in a warm room.

His song if not pleasing to some people's ears is, to say the least of it, novel and quite unlike that of any other bird I have heard. I will not attempt to describe it, except to say that some notes are very shrill and penetrating, others soft and plaintive, while one note in particular sounds exactly like a Budgerigar singing. When in Port Elizabeth he sang most days early in the morning after having his bath, but strange to say he hardly sang at all when he came to this country until after he had been to the Crystal Palace show. Ever since then he has sung beautifully.

The colour of this Bunting, its nesting habits, etc. have already been most ably described by Mr. Page, but if my experiences in keeping a solitary specimen of this bird should be of any interest to others, I shall feel more than pleased that I responded to our Editor's suggestion that I should contribute an article on the subject.

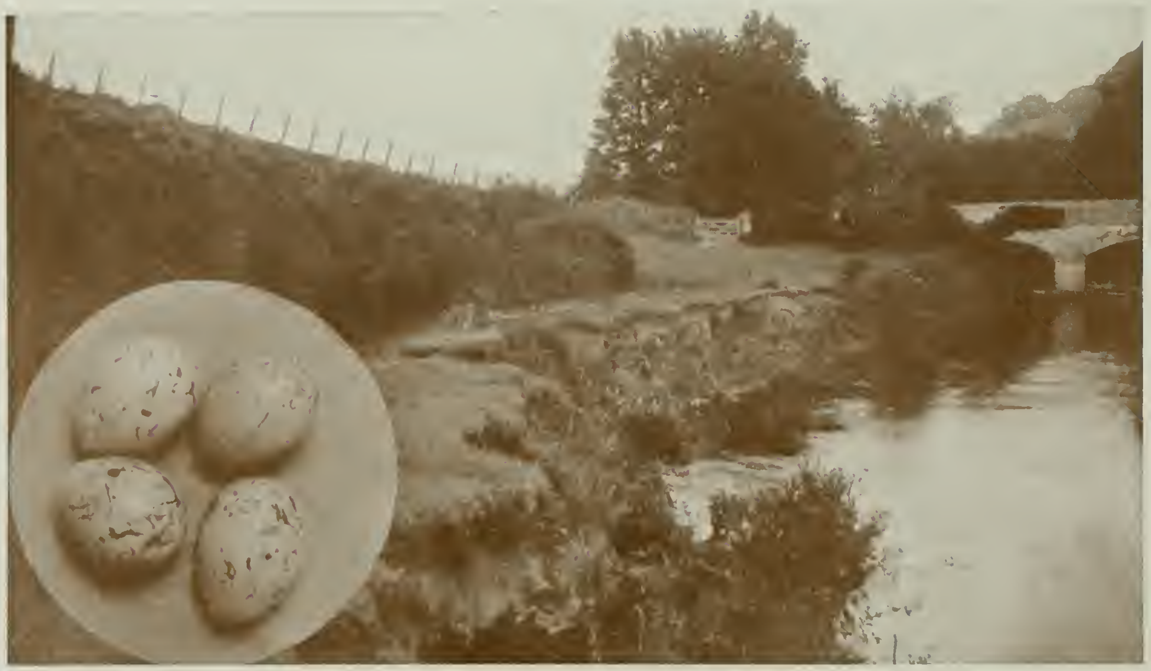

Photo by W. E. Teschemaker, B.A.

THE HAUNT OF THE CIRL BUNTING.

Inset, Clutch of Eggs.

The Cirl Bunting.

By W. E. TESCHEMAKER, B.A.

If I were asked to name the three most characteristic birds of our fair County of Devon, I think I should reply the Buzzard, the Nuthatch and the Cirl Bunting. The Cirl Bunting, moreover, has quite a special connection with Devonshire, historically, for it was near Kingsbridge, in the year 1800, that Colonel Montagu first noted this as a British species. In the following year he found it nesting in this county and communicated to the Linnean Society an account of the method by which he succeeded in rearing the young (Trans. Linn. Soc. VII. pp. 276-280).

It is far from being a common bird and its distribution is irregular, but during the greater portion of the year it may usually be seen in the neighbourhood of Plymouth, Kingsbridge, Torquay, Teignmouth, Exeter, Exmouth and Seaton; also in some parts of North Devon, as, for instance, near Barnstaple. As will be inferred from the above list this species has a decided preference for the sea coast and the numerous small valleys running inland therefrom, but avoids the great central tablelands of Dartmoor and Exmoor.

Despite the great number of books written on British Birds and the large and increasing number of bird-lovers, I have a strong suspicion (which I state with all deference to those who think to the contrary) that we really know next to nothing about birds.

For instance, what do we know about the real reasons which influence the distribution of species. Any bird-book will tell us that the Cirl Bunting is seldom found in the United Kingdom elsewhere than in the South-Western counties, but not one can tell us why. There is evidence that of late years the Cirl Bunting has extended its range into Central Wales, and here again we seek in vain for a motive.

Although these problems remain to be solved, we can, by comparing the localities in which this species is found, obtain some idea of its requirements.

The first of these is I think a warm, sunny environment: hence probably its preference for the South-Western counties.

This species is extremely sensitive to cold, which perhaps explains why it is never found in exposed and elevated situations; I have never found it in Devonshire above 600 feet. In my aviary, the Cirl Buntings are always the first to seek the shelter of the warm covered house as soon as a shower comes on. They may then be seen sitting in a row on a shelf preening themselves and enjoying the warm dry air given off by the hot water pipes, whilst little Waxbills from tropical Africa are enjoying a good bath in a puddle outside and defying the elements.

Its second requirement, I think, is seclusion and plenty of covert, but the latter must not consist of woods but of thick hedges, banks and hillsides well set with gorse and scrub. This too we can understand for, when we come to study the bird in an aviary, we at once notice its shy retiring nature.

It has been remarked by a writer in "British Birds" (Feb. 1908) that the Cirl Bunting has a preference for a limestone soil. I believe this is not a fanciful assumption for I have an entry in my note-book somewhat to the same effect, namely, that though found in the winter on the sandstone tract which lies between Babbacombe and Exmouth, it seems to choose a limestone district for nesting. This no doubt is to be explained by its requirements in the matter of food. In the winter its staple food consists of grass seeds and, at this time of the year, it may sometimes be seen amongst the flocks of Yellowhammers round the farmer's cornstacks, but in the summer months it is largely an insectivorous bird. The young are fed exclusively on insects and the female during incubation is fed by the male on the same diet. I once spent a whole afternoon watching a pair of Cirl Buntings feeding a nest of young. The nest was in a thick hedge and, every time the parents returned with a fresh supply of food, they alighted on a tall stake about twenty yards from the nest, so that by focussing my binoculars on the stake, I was soon able to ascertain that they were feeding principally with spiders. Now a limestone soil (and still more a chalk soil) is very favourable to the Arachnidæ.

In the winter the Cirl Buntings seem to roam about finding food where they can, either singly or in small companies of three or four individuals. At this season I have often seen them searching the grass plots of gardens in Teignmouth. Should the winter be a severe one, many die and still more migrate to the Continent, for, as I have already noted, this species cannot endure cold or damp. From its migratory habit is presumably derived the Devonshire name for the bird—the French Yellowhammer.

In March this Bunting may be seen in pairs and in increased numbers, due presumably to the return of the migrants from the Continent. In April it seeks its nesting haunts in some warm secluded valley near the coast.

In forming my collection of Photos of the nests of British Birds I have always endeavoured, in the case of each species, to obtain a picture of a typical locality where I have actually found a nest, and to me these are interesting in themselves, besides adding to the value of such a collection from an artistic point of view. The little study which accompanies these notes represents the place where I first found a Cirl Bunting's nest, and where a pair bred for a succession of years—Trusham Bridge, about three miles from Chudleigh, on the Upper Teign. This is a charming spot, very warm and sheltered and surrounded by steep hills. On the Bridge itself the Grey Wagtail, Blue Tit and Spotted Flycatcher nest yearly. A Dipper nests little more than one hundred yards above the Bridge. The Kingfisher flashes up and down the stream the whole day long. The Nightingale sings in a small copse behind the railway station (for we have a good many Nightingales in Devon, despite the popular tradition to the contrary) and in the deep gorse on the bank on the left of the picture, in company with many Linnets, Willow Wrens and Chiffchaffs, the Cirl Buntings used to build. (The gorse has now been cut down, but the Cirl Buntings have not gone far away.)

One June day I was having lunch with a friend above this gorse-covered bank when I heard the unmistakable song of this Bunting, and soon detected the singer concealed in a bramble-bush. We kept our eye on him and saw him flit away across the railway line, returning presently with an insect. After eyeing us carefully for some minutes he suddenly disappeared. A second time we saw him go through this manœuvre and, when he again went off on a foraging expedition, I slipped into the gorse and hid myself. After a long wait I saw the bird drop into the gorse about fifty yards lower down and, marking the exact place, I followed him up quickly and put the hen Bunting off the carefully hidden nest. Only in this way are you likely to find a Cirl Bunting's nest.

The nest, placed in the very thickest of the tangle, about two feet from the ground, closely resembled that of the Yellowhammer. The eggs, shown in our illustration, though possessing the characteristic markings of the Buntings, can be easily distinguished from those of any other member of the family. I make it a rule never to take any eggs, but on this occasion I transgressed the rule because the Cirl Bunting is not a rare bird and I was particularly anxious to see if I could rear the young under a hen Canary. So we tied up the eggs in moss and suspended them so as to be in contact with the water jacket of the 8-h.p. engine of our small motor-car, and in this way they were kept beautifully warm during our thirteen miles drive home. Never probably since that far-off day, in the dim and distant past, when the first Cirl Bunting laid its first egg, have any embryo Cirl Buntings found themselves in similar surroundings! The eggs hatched in four days but the foster mother, in spite of much patient effort, failed to rear the young.

This species is rather a late breeder, but generally succeeds in rearing two broods between the beginning of June and the end of August. The song, which may be heard at any time between February and the latter month, has been compared to that of the Lesser Whitethroat and the Wood Wren, but to my mind it is simply the song of the Yellowhammer with the long drawn out final syllable omitted. Whilst singing the bird throws its beak upwards until it is nearly vertical. The reason of this is simply, I think, the bird's desire to show off its singularly marked throat. In the same way the Pope Cardinal, in the days of his courtship, displays his crimson gorget; the cock Chaffinch droops his wing to show the white bars; the Crested Lark raises his wings to show his speckled breast, and a certain well-known actress, who is frequently photographed, assumes an expansive smile which reveals nearly the whole of a very nice set of teeth.

In an aviary the Cirl Bunting is by no means an easy bird to keep in good health, and perhaps for this reason it has always been one of my ambitions to breed it. It requires warmth, plenty of space and growing grass, but after providing these and insect food in abundance, still the bird will generally be found to languish after a time. It seems quite contented, sings and feeds well, but after a time it begins to mope and, when it reaches this stage it should be at once released or it will die.

There is always an exception to every rule and I have a female of this species which has spent three years in my largest aviary. Each summer it has built a nest and once it laid a clutch of eggs. The Cirl Bunting is not a quarrelsome species (I have five now together yet I see no fighting) but when it meets a Yellowhammer, there will surely be a battle.

There is one insult that a bird can never forgive, namely, that another bird, not of its own species, should dare to wear similar colours. I have at the present time a cock Blue Grosbeak and a cock Jacarini Finch in an outdoor aviary. Both these birds are of a dark indigo blue and they never meet without some feathers falling. I do not, however, think we can call this a singular characteristic for we must all have noticed that our sisters are stirred to the inmost depths of their being should any of their friends appear in a similar hat or gown to their own.

My Cirl Buntings spend most of their time on the ground, where they seem to expect to find their food. As a matter of fact the seed tins are raised some three feet from the floor on account of mice, yet they may be seen intently scrutinizing the ground beneath the tins for the waste seed which the other birds let fall from above. It never seems to occur to them to fly up and help themselves. Their gait is singular, being neither a hop nor a run, but somewhat resembling that of the Chaffinch. Their call note is a weak monosyllabic chirp which is often heard at night, at which time no species is more restless and easily disturbed.

Of the six species of Buntings I have kept, my favourite is the Lapland, with its pretty warbling song and handsome nuptial dress. The Snow Bunting will live for any length of time in captivity, but is a most phlegmatic, uninteresting bird, and so is the Ortolan. The Reed Bunting and Yellowhammer are quite worth keeping. The Cirl Bunting I think we must call the most delicate of all though it is quite one of the most interesting.

Two Rare Birds.

By Mrs. E. Warren Vernon.

RUBY-THROATED WARBLER.

Mr. Page gave the description of these lovely birds in March issue. The extreme length of leg is most curious, and this, combined with their love of water, makes one fancy they must live near streams. Mine is in immature plumage having no black patches or markings yet. He is very like a Nightingale in colour with a bright Robin-like eye. Sings almost incessantly a regular Warbler-like song ; very loud and with a good variety of notes. He is one of the tamest birds I have had; comes out each day for his bath and returns at once to his cage to dry and preen his plumage.

Diet : Soft food, some boiled rice, sultanas, mealworms, and flies. He will not eat fruit.

I put him into a large cage with some other peaceful birds, but he was so miserably frightened and uncomfortable that I returned him at once to the enjoyment of his own cage.

* * *

THE GREY BULBUL.

This rare bird is of a dirty grey-green colour, and is most unattractive, save for his lovely song. It sounds like water bubbling, and makes you think of hot days and cool running streams gurgling over little rocks. He sings practically all day, and is a very quiet and well ordered bird, hardly moving at all from one spot. His somewhat sombre plumage is varied with a little white over each eye, and a pale yellow patch under throat, but at present he is not in good plumage, and giving a description is not an easy matter.

Diet : Fruit, soft food and mealworms ; the latter he is very fond of and cleverly catches them in the air.

Very amiable and gentle with other birds.

Stray Notes on my Birds.

By C. H. Row.

At the last Crystal Palace Show I had the pleasure of a short chat with our worthy Editor, who apparently considered it my duty to write "something" for *Bird Notes*. This is a very large order for one who is *very much* an amateur in foreign bird keeping. I, however, promised to do my best and our Editor has promised to knock this article into shape.

My earliest experience of foreign birds related to three or four Black-headed Mannikins that were given to my parents. For a good many years after that foreign birds dropped out of my life; in fact, until after my marriage I never owned one. About 1900, my friend, Mr. Allen Silver, was leaving home and presented my wife with a Silverbill and a Ribbon Finch. The Silverbill used to lay about one egg every week, and she laid herself to death in the end like the hen who first tried the patent nest box with the trap door below, through which the eggs disappeared as soon as laid.

In 1902 I moved to Sudbury, and then seriously began to take up the hobby. In conjunction with Mr. Silver I got out "plans and specifications" for my first aviary. It consisted of a covered-in shed about 5 ft. by 4 ft., partly boarded in front and a wire run about the same size. We made the whole of it ourselves and were rather proud of our work. I invested in some Budgerigars—I believe three pairs—and I know that in the five years I had that aviary I bred between thirty and forty young "Budgies" each season, and the proceeds went a long way towards paying my seed bill. I also bought a pair of Cockatiels in Sclater Street for 5/6, and turned them in with the "Budgies." I bred five or six youngsters the first year from them, but only three lived; the next year the cock bird died, and although I had never found either of them in the least spiteful, directly the lady was left a widow she turned nasty tempered and broke a leg or two of her smaller companions.

Well, once I had a touch of the "bird fever" I took it badly, and although it is now six years since I got that touch, it does not look as if there is any hope of a cure. I see something fresh: I want it and if the pocket will stand it I have to have it. I have now kept about thirty different varieties of foreigners, including the Black-headed, Red-billed and Rufous-necked Weavers. I am not very fond of these as cage birds, although they make charming inhabitants of a large aviary if kept separate from weaker birds. The only one I have now is the Rufous-necked; this was given me in 1904, having previously been in an outdoor aviary, and when I first had him was as "wild as a Hawk" and as disreputable looking as a village sweep. He took a lot of taming down, but came into grand plumage in 1905, and was good enough to secure second prize at Cambridge Show in that year and also in 1906.

I have also kept Combassous, Zebra Finches, Pekin Robins and Saffron Finches. I have also a pair of Paradise Whydahs, and when Mr. Whydah is in full plumage he is the wonder of all my friends. At the C. P. Show I saw Mr. Watts' Queen Whydah, and I really am afraid I "shan't be happy till I get one."

I am not a great lover of the larger foreigners, but at one time or another have owned the "Moustache" and "Indian" Parrakeets, and at the present moment I have the Red and Yellow-vented Blue Bonnets—lovely birds, but *so* nervous; a Rosella and a pair of Scaly-breasted and a Blue-breasted Lorikeet. I did not intend to keep the Scaly-breasted, but the wife fell in love with them, so of course I dare not part with them.

I have purposely left the Australian Finches to the last as these are my special fancy. I have had the following at different times: Chestnut-breasted, Masked, Long-tailed, Gouldian, Parson, Rufous-tailed, Parrot, Bicheno Finches and Diamond Sparrows; in fact I have one or more examples of all, except the first three, at the present time.

The Gouldian and Parson Finches are great favourites of mine, the latter has such a quiet, self satisfied look about him, and he always looks as clean as a new pin.

As to breeding results, except as to Budgerigars and Cockatiels, these are practically nil. I once had a young Ribbon-finch partly reared, but he got out of the nest before he was feathered and "did a die." Zebra Finches have nested with me, but the hen I had seemed to consider the proper way to reproduce her kind was to build a nest, lay one egg, build some more nest, and about a week after lay another egg and so on; needless to say she never "had any luck." What great expectations we do have, and how quickly they are shattered!

This spring I am moving to a larger house with good garden, and I hope soon to be the proud owner of several decent aviaries. My great wish is to try to rear some hybrids between foreign finches.

I am afraid I can tell your readers very little that can be of use to them; there is however one thing I should like to mention. Sometimes I have been troubled with growths on the feet of birds in the shape of small lumps on the joints. Last year I had a Siberian Goldfinch affected in this way on one claw, and tried the experiment of removing the ordinary perches from his cage and substituting the branchy end of a pea stick: this, consisting as it did of small branches of various sizes, gave him a chance of using his feet more, and in about a fortnight the lump entirely disappeared. I give this for what it is worth, but certainly think it is worth trying.

Stray Notes on my Aviary and its Inmates.

By Capt. J. S. Reeve.

My aviary was constructed three years ago out of a portion of my house, which faces south, and it is roughly of the following dimensions: height 15 feet; length 12 feet; depth 6 feet. At the eastern end is a window hermetically sealed with a sheet of plate glass, and at the opposite end is a wooden door from which the aviary can be cleaned out; the only opening therefore is in the western end of the southern wall, which is a large one (9 feet high by 6 feet wide) and which is never closed summer or winter. The floor is concrete and has a stone basin in it for water.

I keep no soft-billed birds, and feed only on millet and Canary except plenty of green food. In the frosty weather a little hemp, and in the summer ants' eggs are given.

I will now give you a list of those birds which have survived this or last winter in this aviary, with any special notes connected with each.

Zebra and Diamond Doves have laid and sat, but always had their nests destroyed.

Java Sparrows never attempted breeding till after two years when they hatched two young ones out of four eggs, but deserted them before they were fledged.

Spice-birds. Zebra Finches have bred successfully each year.

Budgerigars have done likewise.

Pair Combassous have survived one winter.

Canaries have hatched out young ones.

Cock Indigo Bunting was sickly two months in the house, and on being put out sufficiently recovered to live 2½ years.

Cock Paradise Whydah died last September, in nearly full colour, having lived over two years, and always in perfect condition.

Pair Siskins, caught here in January, 1906, and still in perfect health; pair Bramblings, these are the only English birds I have.

Cock St. Helena Seedeater, this bird and the two following pairs were brought me from Beaufort West, Cape Colony, in May, 1906.

Pair Cape Canaries, hen died a year ago of severe inflammation of lungs after nine months.

Pair Alario Finches, cock died in January, 1907, after six or seven months.

Two cock Napoleon Weavers.

Pair Avadavats, hen died in October last, after nearly three months—I think from egg-binding.

Cock Red-headed Weaver, two other Weavers (probably hens of sorts).

Cock Dufresne's Waxbills: a pair of these were brought me with others, from Beaufort West, (May, 1906); the hen was in good plumage always, and the cock bald; and until the hen died I kept them in the house and tried to cure the cock's baldness, first by syringing every morning, and then by giving magnesia. I then put him out in the aviary on August 28th, 1906, but on November 7th, as he appeared weak, I took him in. He was killed the same night by a mouse or other birds in the cage, but the *feathers were growing* on his head and neck with the out-door life, though it had been bald for eighteen months.

The number in the aviary at one time has varied from thirty up to fifty.

I propose adding, this summer, Silverbills, Avadavats and Green Avadavats, and possibly Cherry and Gouldian Finches.

The above mentioned cock St. Helena Seedeater paired with a hen Canary, a very dark-coloured one, brown on wings and back. They had about four nests, and, so far as I could make out, only one egg usually. They hatched certainly once besides, the young one being thrown out on the floor one morning. The one they reared was about their third attempt, and does not take *at all* after the Seedeater! Its head and wings resemble the hen, but the back, top of tail and breast have thrown back to *light yellow canary* colour. It was hatched end of July, chiefly fed by cock with ants' eggs, chopped egg and biscuit, and green food, and left the nest on August 12th, when the hen began to sit again. I am inclined to think it is a hen.

I may mention to you another occurrence which is rather unusual. I have about twenty-four Barbary Doves flying wild and breeding out in the open; in the summer a wild Turtle-dove took up with them, and so far as I know is still here—at any rate it has been to feed with them at the window within the last few days, and is quite tame.

If I can give any further information about my aviary I shall be glad to do so.

All I have in my cages in the house at present are: pair St. Helena Waxbills, brought from Beaufort West, May, 1906; one Common South African Waxbill; one cock Red-headed Weaver; one cock St. Helena Seed-eater (which I wish to part with); one Silverbill; one unknown bird!; and pair Green Avadavats.

The person who brought me the birds from Cape Colony is there now again, and I am hoping for some more in May. It seems a great pity the Cape Canary is not more often imported being a most charming bird; the Seed-eaters are rather quarrelsome I find.

Editorial.

THE INDIGO BIRD (*Cyanospiza cyanea*). This charming bird, once freely imported and comparatively cheap, since the U. S. have prohibited the importation of their avifauna, has become both rare and costly. However a few leak through occasionally and by the kindness of our esteemed member, Mr. R. Suggitt, a fine male has recently found its way into my aviary. This bird was justly a favourite when obtainable and I opine the following quotations from Miss Mabel Osgood Wright's interesting paper in *Bird Lore*, July-August, 1907, will interest many of the admirers of this lovely species.

" Blue that is decided in tone, and not a bluish grey, is one of the rarest hues among " birds of temperate zones; for one can count the really blue birds of the eastern United " States upon the fingers of one hand ....When it comes to painting the plumage of the " male in words, the task becomes difficult.........A merely technical description would " read: Front of chin and head rich indigo blue, growing lighter and greener on back " and underparts; wings dusky brown, with blue edges to coverts; tail feathers also blue " edged; bill and feet dark; general shape rounded and Canary-like. The last of May, " one of these Buntings came to a low bush, outside my window, and after resting awhile " for the night had been stormy, dropped to the closely cut turf to feed upon the crumbs " left where the hounds had been munching their biscuits. I have never seen a more beautiful specimen, and the contrast with the vivid green grass seemed to develop the colour " of malachite that ran along one edge of the feathers, shifting as the bird moved like the " sheen of changeable silks......Alexander Wilson describes its plumage so: There is one " singularity, viz., that in some lights, his plumage appears of a rich sky-blue, and in " others of a rich verdigris-green; so that the same bird in passing from one place to " another before your eyes, seems to undergo a total change of colour. When the angle " of incidence of the rays of light reflected is acute, the colour is green; when obtuse,

> "blue......From this, however, must be excepted the colour of the head, which is not "affected by the change of position."

With the above all who have kept this bird will, I am sure, fully agree, for the eulogy is most certainly not over-drawn. The nest is a loose and careless structure, composed of grass, horsehair, rootlets, bents, etc., and is usually placed on a tree or bush at a low elevation. The eggs are pale whitish-blue, and usually three or four in number. Though a seedeater, the Indigo Bunting consumes a large number of insects during the nesting season.

> "Their favourite resort is the garden, where from the topmost branch of some tall "tree......the male regularly pours out his lovely chant. In the village of Cambridge "(Mass.), I have seen one of these azure, almost celestial musicians, regularly chant "to the inmates of a tall dwelling-house from the summit of the chimney or the tall fork "of the lightning rod."

Those of us who know this avian gem amid the greenery of the outdoor aviary, alone know how to appreciate its glowing beauty and the ever changing hues of its exquisite plumage. So great is its beauty under these conditions that it is impossible to describe it in a word picture; what then must it be when seen as a wild creature of the air in its native wilds!

THE PURPLE FINCH, by the same author and from another issue of *Bird Lore*. *Carpodus purpurea* was like the preceeding once a common inhabitant of our aviaries, but now very rarely comes to hand, was seldom seen for long in the beauty of fully mature plumage.

> "The Purple Finch, which as I have said, is not purple, but, when in full plumage, "washed with a rich raspberry-red, deepest on breast, crown and rump: brownish back, "wings and tail, is one of the notable members of the family. Its bill is heavy and "round, approaching in size those of the Grosbeaks, while in body it ranks with Song "and House Sparrows......The change of the young male from his northern plain garb to "the full crimson costume is interesting as it is deliberate, taking two seasons, the rosy "flush not appearing till the end of the second year. The range of the Purple or "Crimson Finch, as I wish the wise men would agree to call him, is eastern North "America......In spite of his unique plumage, it is for his song that this bird has won "renown, and it is by his song that he is most readily to be identified......These Finches "travel at times in flocks and are at all times somewhat gregarious, and this trait has "made them an easy prey to the bird catchers......The Purple Finch, though, like many "others, hunts for succulent food, apple and cherry blossoms in the spring, has a "decided economic value; for the seasons through it feeds upon orchard and woodland "caterpillars, lice, cankerworms, and when these are out of date it consumes quantities of "the seeds of injurious plants, including the noxious ragweed."

As a cage bird after the moult they become more or less brown, and very seldom regain their red colour.

THE PURPLE-CAPPED LORY LAYING EGGS IN CAPTIVITY. Just on going to press a letter reaches me from our esteemed member, Mr. O. Millsum, *re* his Purple-caps. They are kept in a cage 3 feet by 2 feet.

> "A little bit of news in which you will be interested.—One of my Purple-capped "Lories seemed very swollen round the vent during the last week, and I began to "feel troubled; I examined it very closely and no sign of inflammation was present,

> "as I had always taken this bird for the cock, being much the finer and larger bird, I "could not imagine what was the matter with it. Great indeed was my surprise, when I "went to switch on the electric light, on Friday night (April 3rd) for them to have their "supper, to find a nice white egg lying on the floor of their cage unbroken. I have since "fitted up in their cage a small barrel, similar to what I use for Cockateels, and made it "as near nature as possible by covering it with bark, and to my great delight I find she "has been exploring it, and I should imagine by her restlessness she is about to lay "again. I only hope she will take to the barrel and sit, which perhaps I can hardly "expect in a cage only 3 feet by 2 feet. However as there is the probability of their eventually breeding I have prepared a nice aviary out of doors for them to occupy as soon as "the weather permits me to put them out."

A most interesting occurrence, and points to the fact that in this species, the female is the larger and brighter bird, providing of course the ages of Mr. Millsum's pair are about equal. Successful breeding in the cage is improbable, though certainly not impossible. However there is a very strong probability that they will successfully breed in the outdoor aviary, and I would suggest, that when they are turned out, that the barrel they have become accustomed to also form part of the furnishing of their aviary. So far I do not think this species has been bred in the United Kingdom.

CHINGOLO SONG-SPARROW (*Zonostricha pileata*). A plainly but prettily clad species; it has a sweet but slightly monotonous little song.

To call this bird plain scarcely does it justice, for the male, and for the matter of that the female also, is certainly a pretty bird, with their sharply defined greys, browns and blacks. The head, nape, and cheeks are ashen, with bold, longitudinal black stripes, sides and back of neck, reddish-brown; back and wings ruddy-brown, with sharply defined black shaft lines to most of the feathers, lower back and tail, ashy-brown, tail feathers with paler borders; under parts greyish-white, washed with brown on the breast, abdomen and flanks; beak, brownish; legs and feet, pale brown.

The female is slightly smaller than the male, and her plumage is not of quite so rich a hue, but with the variableness common to all species, the sexes apart from song are not easy to discern.

Mr. W. E. Teschemaker has succeeded in breeding this species and records the following among details in the *Avicultural Magazine*. His birds had an enclosure to themselves,

> "towards the middle of July I noticed the hen sitting.........after incubation had pro-"ceeded about a month I examined the nest carefully and, to my very great astonish-"ment, found that it contained four eggs and two young birds only a few days of age "I can only explain this by assuming that the hen laid three eggs, then sat a fortnight, "then laid three more eggs and sat another fortnight—an event which has never occurred "before in my aviaries. The young birds had some whitish down on their heads and "backs. They grew and feathered very rapidly, the hen doing nearly all the feeding, "and taking nothing to the young but live insect food"

The young were successfully reared to maturity and still live. This is the first occasion on which young of this species had been reared in this country. Mixed seed, soft food, and a few live insects are about all these pleasing birds require. Most of the Foreign Sparrows and so called Sparrows are really handsome birds though not gorgeously clad. As yet but few of them have been bred in captivity, a fact which makes them specially interesting to aviculturists.

ERRATUM. The titles on plate containing the figures of Golden Plover and Young Pewitt as printed should read Green Plover and Young Peewit, the error occurred through the misreading of the small writing on block, and we regret it passed unnoticed.

Reviews and Notices of New Books.

LAST HOURS WITH NATURE. By Mrs. ELIZA BRIGHTWEN, F.Z.S., F.E.S. Published by T. FISHER UNWIN, 1, Adelphi Terrace, London, W.C. 2/6 net.

Yet another book from the fruitful pen of this popular and versatile author. It is written in her inimitable, interesting and lucid style, and while it is, as are all her works, peerless as gift books to the young, it is none the less entrancing to persons of riper years. Every page shows an intimate acquaintance and even familiarity with the wild creatures of the earth and air that is attained to but by few; and the life histories of creatures, plants, etc., dealt with in this her latest work, are told with that freshness and charm that is only possessed by those who have made a life-long study of the Creator's handiwork in hedge-row, garden, and field. It is well illustrated, contains 220 pages of text and has for a frontispiece a portrait of the author. It contains, life histories and anecdotes of Toads, Badger, Nightingale, Robin, Blackcap, Whitethroat, Locust, Blue-bottle Flies, Jumping Beans, numerous seedling trees and plants; a chapter on Nature Study, Diary of a Tour, and Some entries in a Naturalist's Diary.

Perhaps the most interesting chapter to bird-lovers is the one entitled a "Trio of Vocalists" from which we extract the following:—

> "It is not often possible to study the habits of such birds as Nightingales, Black-"caps and Whitethroats when they are perfectly at ease and therefore free to show their "natural characteristics. As it happens I can do this, since I possess a perfectly tame "specimen of each of these birds. It is one of my favourite amusements to let all three out "of their cages, and whilst I am quietly writing I watch their behaviour towards each "other. Thus it has come to pass that the shy English Nightingale, so seldom seen except "perhaps in early summer, when we may chance to get a glimpse of the plain brown "bird which is filling the air with sweet music, perched on a spray in some woody copse, "is now my intimate friend, living with me hour by hour, calmly happy and content "and taking mealworms from my hand as readily as does my long domesticated "Whitethroat "Fairy."

And so the record runs on to the end of the story. Equally interesting is the following chapter on "A Fairy Story continued." The bird in question, a Whitethroat, Fairy by name, has been in Mrs. Brightwen's possession over six years and the record is a confirmation of what members of F.B.C. are already acquainted with, viz., that intelligently kept, insectivorous birds can and do thrive in captivity, and are even happy and contented under such conditions. The perusal of this work cannot fail to be both instructive and interesting and is sure to awaken in its readers a keener interest in Nature generally.

BRITISH BIRDS: The March issue is a most interesting one, and the article by William Farren on the crouching habits of the Stone-Curlew, illustrated with four photographic reproductions of the young crouching amidst different surroundings, is a most valuable addition to the literature of protective assimilation. Equally interesting is Major F. W. Proctor's account of the Lesser Redpoll as a Berkshire breeding species. Very valuable are Messrs. H. F. Witherby and N. F. Ticehurst's communications on the additions to our knowledge of British Birds since 1899. Among the miscellaneous notes are two which cannot be passed by, both are quoted *in extenso.*

"THREE CUCKOO'S EGGS IN ROBIN'S NEST: The following particulars supplied to me " by Mr. Thomas Gillah with regard to a Robin's nest in which three Cuckoo's eggs were " laid may be of interest. The nest, which was particularly well concealed, was found at " Well Hall, near Chelsfield, Kent, in June, 1905. On 1st June, when first found, the nest " contained two eggs of a Robin and one of a Cuckoo. One of the Robin's eggs and one " of the Cuckoo's were taken. On June 6th there were two more Cuckoo's eggs in the " nest, while one more Robin's egg had been laid. All the eggs were fresh, but they were " cold, and appeared to have been deserted. They are now in my collection, and the " three Cuckoos' egg are so unlike each other that there can be no doubt that they were " laid by three different birds. As shewing that the Cuckoo is not always a wiseacre, I " have an egg that was placed in a Hedge Sparrow's nest three weeks after the owner " had deserted her one egg. The whole proceedings were watched by my brother who " sent me eggs. J. F. GREEN."

" LARGE CLUTCH OF EGGS OF THE GREAT CRESTED GREBE: It may interest many " to know that on 20th May, 1907, I found a nest of the Great Crested Grebe on a reservoir " near Aylesbury, Bucks, containing no less than seven eggs! Surely this is an extremely " large number, and possibly the product of two females,* L. W. CROUCH.

The other notes contain records of Black Redstart near Dublin, Lesser Whitethroat in Cumberland, Cirl Bunting in Merionethshire, Common Bittern in Yorks, Greenshank in Staffs., Ospreys in co. Sligo, Night Heron in co. Meath, Sabine's Snipe in co. Cork, and Sabine's Gull in the Firth of Forth. The issue is one of the most interesting yet published.

The Condor, the Magazine of the Cooper Ornithological Club for January-February is to hand, and is an intensely interesting issue containing a Life History of the Californian Condor by W. L. Finley; Nesting of the Western Horned Owl in Colorado by R. B. Rockwell; North-Western Colorado Bird Notes by E. R. Warren; The Tawny Creeper in Western Washington by J. H. Bowles; the Southern Californian Chickadee by J. Grinnell; Notes from the Diary of a Naturalist in Northern California by J. F. Ferry; with many interesting notes of field observation complete a very valuable issue. One of these may interest our readers: "Is the Mountain Bluebird Resident at High Altitudes?—During the latter part of February and early March of this year (1907), *Sialis arctia* * was very numerous in and about Flagstaff, Arizona, altitude 6,800 ft.; in fact the commonest bird. The period covers the coldest weather for that locality. And as this bird is a known breeder in Northern Arizona (San Francisco Mountains), can we not infer that they are resident in that zone? Austin P. Smith, Benson, Arizona."

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* While not impossible, it appears scarcely probable that two hens of so quarrelsome a species would lay in the same nest.—ED.

Post Mortem Reports.

(Vide Rules).

Pair of GOULDIAN FINCHES. (W. T. Rogers). Both had jaundice, in all probability due to a chill. I think putting them into a cage just freshly distempered with Hall's patent Sanitary Distemper was a mere coincidence.

CANARY. (Lady Ellen Dunn). Enteritis.

WHITE JAVA SPARROW. (Miss E. Brooksbank). Cirrhosis of Liver.

Answered by Post:

J. N. Wilson.

HENRY GRAY, M.R.C.V.S.

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*If obtainable this species should prove even more hardy than the better known *Sialis sialis* in this country.—ED.

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BIRD NOTES:

— THE —

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

The Yellow Hangnest.

(*Icterus xanthornis*).

By WESLEY T. PAGE, F.Z.S.

This bird was first introduced to the London Zoo by our esteemed member Mr. E. W. Harper, who presented either one or two specimens, one being still alive, and a very gorgeous specimen indeed, and was looking very fit on the occasion of my last visit to the Gardens. Last year Mr. Harper brought over another specimen, which he very kindly presented to me in July last: to my very great regret it suddenly died on January 30th last. Its death was unaccountable till I opened the body, when the signs pointed to long standing liver trouble, that organ being very much enlarged. This was the more disappointing, being totally unexpected, for it had been looking very fit the whole time it had been in my possession, and the first intimation of anything wrong was picking up the body. It was immature when it reached me, and a lovely creature to the eye, and was nearly in mature plumage when its unexpected decease occurred.

Adult male: Of slender and graceful form, slightly smaller than the Common Hangnest, and the hues of its plumage very intense and effulgent. Upper parts rich yellow, washed with olivaceous on the interscapulium; lores, wings, and middle of throat velvety black; lesser wing-coverts yellow, lightly washed with green; the greater wing-coverts, secondaries and primaries are narrowly margined with white, these markings being very variable, (comparing three skins sent me by a collector from British Guiana, all are distinctly marked with white, but vary much one from the other in the width of the white margins to the wing feathers, all in this respect differing materially from the type); under parts, with the exception of the throat, intense golden-yellow; tail black; beak, legs and feet black. Total length 7½ inches, of which the tail measures 3½ inches.

Adult female: Similar as to plumage, but if the aforementioned skins are correctly sexed, she is slightly the larger bird and her bill is a trifle shorter than that of the male.

Immature plumage: From my specimen this appears to be similar to the adult birds, with the exception of the wing and tail feathers, which are dull olive; the other areas of colour are similar, but less intense in hue. The white margins of the coverts, primaries, and secondaries are much narrower than those of adult birds, and the bill had a lightish streak down the centre of the upper mandible, this becomes entirely black when the bird is fully mature.

Habitat: Northern Columbia, Venezuela, Trinidad, Guiana, Cayenne and Upper Rio Negro (B. M. Cat.). The skins, nests, and eggs, herein described were taken in Georgetown, British Guiana.

In British Guiana it is known as the Yellow Plantian Eater.

Breeding: I do not know of any instance of any species of Hangnest having been bred in the United Kingdom. In their native haunts they nest in colonies and suspend their elongated purse-shaped nests from the branches of trees, but description is not needed as accompanying figure of one of the aforementioned nests makes this both unnecessary and superfluous. The eggs are very pale bluish-green, lined and spotted with black.

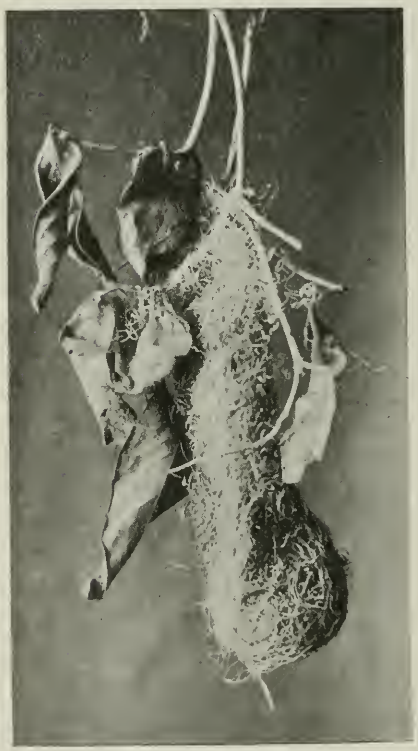
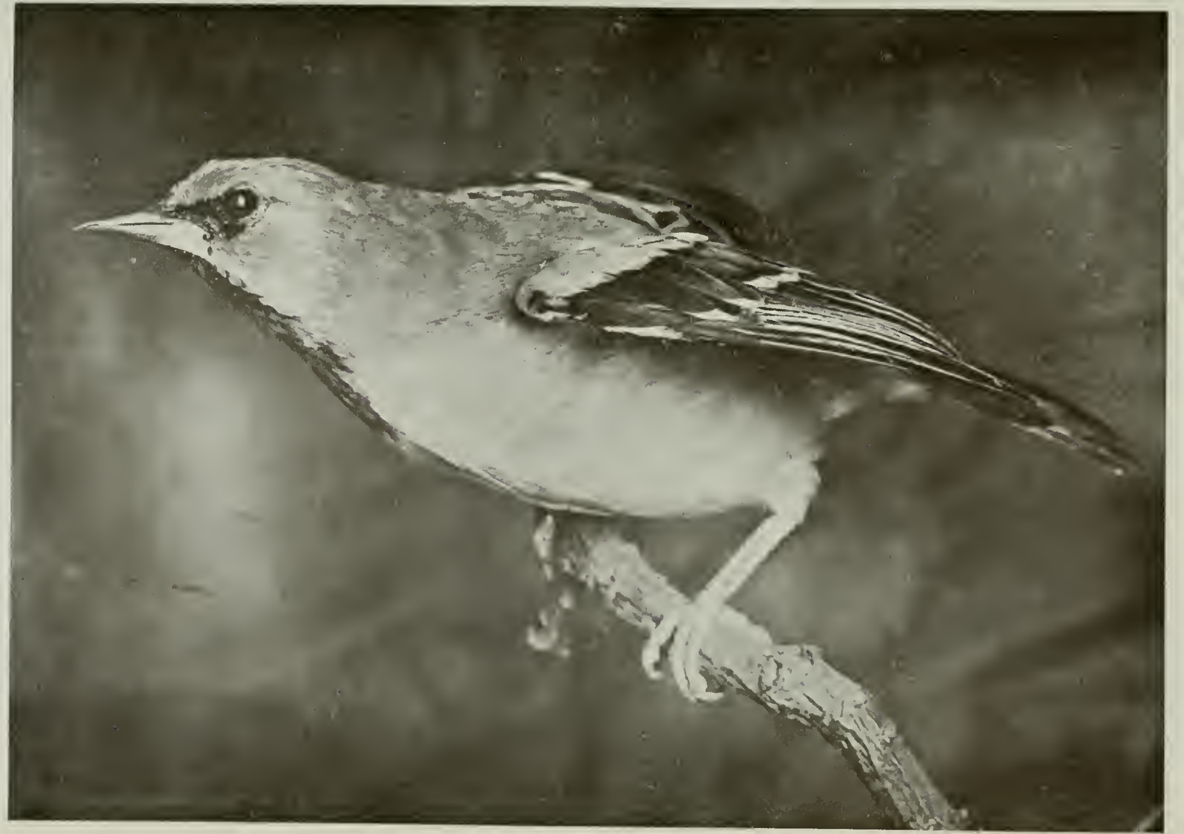


Photo by E. O. Page.

Nest of Yellow Hangnest.



THE YELLOW HANGNEST.
Icterus xanthornis.

Photo by E. O. *Page.*

Diet: Ripe fruit *ad lib.*, insectile food, live insects, and a little boiled milk sop. Sweet water grapes they are specially fond of.

For the aviary this species, and in fact all the Hangnests, are most desirable and beautiful inmates, while their fearless and confiding demeanour soon endear them to their owner. At the same time they should not be associated with smaller or weaker species. As cage birds they are unrivalled whether kept singly or in pairs. To illustrate my point, there is in the Western Aviary at the present time a specimen of the Brazilian Hangnest, so tame and fearless that the difficulty is to get rid of it: it will enter your pocket, lie on its back in your hand, hang from your finger, in fact, to sum up you can handle it as you please and it appears to enjoy it. There is also in same enclosure a specimen of the Yellow or Golden-crowned Hangnest, which is equally tame and simply crawls over you, but this individual will not permit you to handle it. The above two instances are not by any means isolated ones as the following article by Mrs. Vernon amply demonstrates. If confined in a cage it should not be less than 2ft. by 1½ft. by 1½ft. high; it will also help to keep them fit if they can be indulged with a fly round the room occasionally.

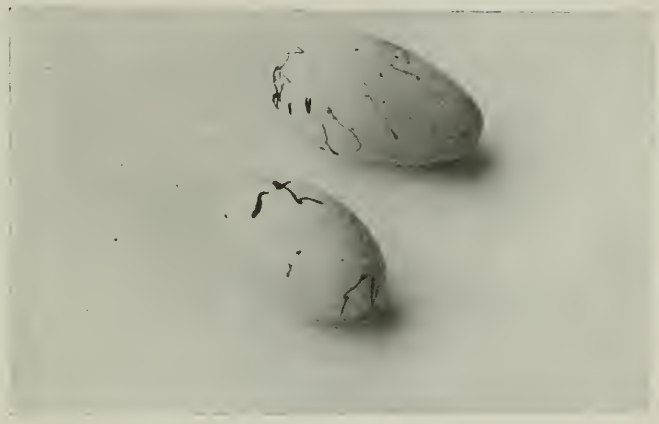


Photo by E. O. Page.

Eggs of Yellow Hangnest.

The Brazilian Hangnest.

(*Icterus jamaicaii*).

By Mrs. E. Warren Vernon.

This is a lovely bird: the gorgeous brilliant orange breast, back of head and neck and lower part of back, with black bill, having long feathers which he erects at will; black wings with white bar and black tail, makes him one of the most fascinating pets. His very pointed beak, which is also powerful, prevents his being with other birds, as he has the most mischievious propensities of any bird I know. Any bright colour attracts him, and a Red-cheeked Bulbul was nearly worried to death by his constant attempt to pick the red off. A Scarlet Tanager was equally worried by his trying to examine the white marks on his beak. Any material he finds he puts his beak through and opens it, the noise of tearing apparently pleasing him.

He eats fruit, soft food, raw egg, a little of anything you like to offer him. Bathes often, and has some lovely liquid notes. His eye is like the Troupials—pale yellow with black centre—a decidedly wicked eye. The naked skin round eye is pale blue.

Bird-Keeping.

By Henry Gray, M.R.C.V.S.,

Veterinary Surgeon to the Home for Lost and Stray Dogs, Battersea, etc.

My experience of bird-keeping has been most interesting and yet most disastrous. After having kept a few thousands (both British and foreign) in outdoor aviaries and within doors I have come to the conclusion that, providing one stocks one's outdoor aviaries at a seasonable time of the year and gradually get the birds accustomed to our climate before the autumnal season sets in, most birds will stand our trying climate during the winter months. But to successfully do this one must provide suitable shelter and cover, such as thatch, straw, logs, brushwood, etc., for the birds to creep into to keep themselves warm, just like our resident birds do in thatch, hay and straw ricks, undergrowth, ivy, yew, etc. It is unreasonable to expect foreigners to do well exposed within a cold building or shed. Another factor for successful foreign bird-keeping is a dry ground surface of the aviary, else a fouled wet soil is likely to ferment during milder weather and set up an epizoötic.

Providing one starts with a healthy stock one may keep even the little African Fire-finches, Cordon Bleus, Nonpareils, Lineolated Parrakeets, etc., out all the winter and spring with success. My deaths among birds kept out of doors have not taken place during the coldest weather, but when it has changed from cold to warm or mugginess and wet. I have not noticed any superior advantage in keeping most species in the house. There are, however, exceptions to this even amongst those thoroughly acclimatised to the cold room within doors. Red-faced Love Birds, kept for more than a year exposed in a cage in an open alcove, seemed in the pink of condition until turned out into an open aviary on a fine day in spring, when they succumbed within a week. I will, however, allow that the nights turned chilly and the birds seem to have had no sense of taking cover.

I do not believe in artificial heat in a bird-room during the winter if the birds have got acclimatised to the room. But newly-purchased ones frequently succumb to cold, as they often do under any conditions. There is no harm in covering them up until they get accustomed to their new surroundings and have got over the rough usage they have been subjected to during their transit from the catcher to the purchaser. Draughts are fatal.

The majority of freshly-imported birds coming from dealers die soon after they have been purchased by the aviculturist. The cause of this may be attributed to several factors, the principal of which are:—

(1) Infection contracted at the large bird-market or at the dealer's establishment.

(2) Exposure and bad treatment during transit, which may bring on an auto-infection.

(3) Improper food or a too sudden change in the quality or quantity of the food.

I.—Infection contracted at the large bird-market or at the dealer's establishment is the principal cause of mortality. It may not have been contracted at the large continental bird-market but at the wholesale or retail dealers' establishments which are mostly reeking with infective microbes, even if they are not kept in a most insanitary, filthy condition—in a condition the sanitary authorities would not allow a pig or a cow to be kept. As bird-keeping is not absolutely essential to our well-being, moral or material, I think it is only a moral duty that we, who have a predilection for this kind of pleasure, should see that the poor creatures are treated as well as possibly could be, and not allowed to suffer from over-crowding, want of food and clean water, disease and filth, just for the gain of those who trade in them. What right have we to encourage wholesale misery to, and slaughter of, the majority of birds caught for our pleasure? I, whose profession daily brings me into contact with suffering, and who, therefore, it might be supposed, would have a callous heart, have truly been sorry for the poor creatures cooped up like bees in a hive; in fact I cannot express my true feeling.

But let me return to the subject of infection. Birds when just purchased may apparently be in good health, and remain so for a few days to a week or a month or so, when they gradually droop and die one after another, until most, if not all, have died. The reason the bird appears well at first and afterwards dies is because the infection takes time to declare itself in the form of disease. There is a quiescent period, or period of incubation, from the time of the inception of the infection to the onset of illness.

The purchaser of birds is not alone in this misfortune; those who buy a young horse, dog or cat from a dealer's establishment, which is reeking with infection, frequently have the animal at home a few days or a week or so before it falls ill and very often dies. No doubt young horses from the country, puppies or kittens from the breeder, are perfectly healthy until they enter the dealer's establishment where they are not long before a customer comes along and buys one, which then seems in the best of health and spirits. But it has not been in its new owner's possession long before it becomes a patient for the veterinary surgeon. I have encountered hundreds of such cases and profited from them. No doubt many of your readers have had such an experience. Those who have not should go to the "Stores," to a dog-dealer's, etc., and buy a kitten or puppy "over distemper." They may be told it is so, but the seller will give no guarantee.

There are many infectious, contagious or inoculable diseases of birds, but the most disastrous is that due to "*invisible, ultravisible or ultra-microscopic microbes*," which are, as their names imply, too small to be seen by the most powerful microscope yet devised. They have not up to the present been cultivated in any known culture medium. They are so small that they pass through some of the finest mesh bacteriological filters.

Most of the true contagious, infectious, or inoculable diseases of animals, and probably those of man, are due to this class of micro-organism. To give a few instances of the disease they are known to cause. I may mention spotted tobacco-leaf disease, foot-and-mouth disease, cattle-plague, Cape horse-sickness, swine-fever, (which now includes swine-fever proper and swine-plague), canine and feline distemper, fowl-plague, pheasant-plague, bird-plague, rabies, malarial catarrh of sheep, pernicious anæmia of horses, contagious conjunctivitis of cattle, sheep and goats, yellow-fever of man, etc. The contagious pleuro-pneumonia of oxen is due to an almost invisible microbe which passes through filters having a certain degree of porosity, and which has been cultivated in collodion sacs inserted in the peritoneal cavity of the rabbit and external to the animal body, in both liquid and solid media.

But, as I have said above, birds may die of many infectious diseases, the majority of which are due to microbes discoverable by the microscope. They include tuberculosis, bird-cholera (a septicæmia), bird-fever (so-called bird-plague), which has been studied by Rieck of Dresden in 1888, Clarke, Kern of Buda-Pesth in 1895, and Creswell, among others ; colon-bacilli infection, avian diphtheria (not allied to human diphtheria), avian choleraic gastro-enteritis, spirochætosis, spirillosis, etc.

There are many other diseases of birds, such as piroplasmosis, trypanosomiasis, etc., which require to be elucidated. The cause of grouse-disease is not known, but it is very likely due to an "invisible micro-organism." The same may be said of contagious epitheliosis, a disease commonly confounded with avian diphtheria.

It is quite possible that, in the light of further research, the "bird-fever or plague" of Clarke, Creswell, and others, may be proved to be due to an invisible micro-organism; and that the microbe mentioned by these authorities may only play a secondary *rôle*, as the formerly so-called microbe of swine-fever does in swine. This micro-organism, although causing, when pigs were fed with it, all the classical symptoms of swine-fever did not give them immunity on exposure to natural infection, nor when they were injected with the filtered blood of pigs suffering from the natural disease. The filtered blood, however, gave the natural disease to pigs which, when they recovered, were immune to the natural disease. At one time the best pathologists in nearly every country distinguished several infectious diseases of swine by the pathological lesions and by the visible microscopic micro-organisms. Now, thanks to the researches of the late Dr. Schweinitz and his colleagues in the Bureau of Animal Industry in the U.S.A., the filtrate test has convinced not only the British but also all the leading pathologists of Continental Europe, that they were studying several manifestations of one disease. Millions of pounds had been spent over these investigations during the last thirty years, and all the labour and expense has been thrown to the wind by this filtrate test, which no doubt will play in the future a very important part in the elucidation of many of the diseases of animals and man.

I shall revert to this subject again in a future number of *Bird Notes*, as I wish, by going into side paths of bird pathology, to make my ideas about the various diseases of birds clearer to your readers.

The Breeding of Swainson's Lorikeet.

(*Trichoglossus novæ-hollandiæ*).

By Miss C. Rosa Little.

Two or three years ago I wrote an account of my Blue Mountain Lories for *Bird Notes*, and I think it may interest many to hear about my later experiences of these most quaint and interesting creatures.

In my former notes I told of the affection existing between the pair I first had and how on the loss of the hen bird, from a growth, the cock bird was almost wild with grief and for a long time refused to be comforted or take food. I also said that I had at last succeeded in getting another hen ; this was quite a young one and the first winter after buying her she laid two eggs, but did not seem to understand that they required incubation.

On January 13th, 1907, she laid another egg, and a few days afterwards a second ; this time she took it in turns with the cock bird to sit as a rule, but sometimes both would sit at the same time, one on each egg. They made no nest and the eggs were laid on the floor of their cage which is about 5ft. long, 3ft. wide, and 5ft. high. At first we put the eggs into a box with a little sawdust at the bottom, but the birds would not have this and turned them out again.

In due time one young bird was hatched ; we left the second egg for a week or more, not caring to disturb them as they were very shy and could not bear any one to look at their wonderful baby, which was an ugly little grey object. The second egg we afterwards found had been just ready to hatch, but we supposed the parents deserted it in their pride and excitement over their first born.

As time went on the youngster throve and very quickly seemed to get quite grown up, but, poor thing, the toes were bitten off either by mice or the parents (we never discovered which), so that she could never perch properly. We covered the perch with wire netting and she is very clever at holding on and getting about. As she became older her parents became tired of her so we moved them to another cage and gave her as a companion a young cock bird that I had bought with the hen and who had deserted him for the other bird. These two have lived most happily together ever since, and are most tame and affectionate, being devoted to me and the moment they hear my voice they begin to scream and rush up and down their cage. I always have to go and talk to them before they will quiet down. I am hoping that in time these two will also breed.

On November 29th last I was greeted with the news that the Lories had laid an egg. This, of course, referred to the old pair. On December 2nd there was a second egg: and the first was hatched on Christmas Day; second on the 28th December.* Both these birds are now in beautiful plumage and their beaks are already turning orange. They also are very tame and are much finer birds than the first youngster and are quite sound and perfect. These two we moved to a separate cage as soon as they could feed themselves and the parents are now sitting on two more eggs. I suppose the return of winter made them think it time to attend to their domestic affairs again, for they have never nested a second time so quickly before.

It may interest our members to hear how we feed them. They love nothing better than bread and milk and this forms their chief diet. They only like it made with cold unboiled † milk on bread that *has not* been first soaked in water. We give them a little seed but they do not care for this much; chickweed and watercress are their favourite green food. They are also very fond of small pieces of cake or bread and jam, also ripe fruit. My birds are very healthy and robust, in fact have never ailed since they recovered from fits, which they had soon after I bought them, except the younger cock which had several fits one day last summer from which we did not think he could recover. The birds bred here have, so far, never failed in any way, so I hope they will live for many years.

If these two last eggs hatch out I shall be obliged to part with a pair as I cannot keep so many.

I am delighted at receiving a certificate from the Foreign Bird Club for having been the first to breed these birds in England for thirty years. I hope my success will encourage others to keep these lovely birds, for I am certain they will find them both interesting and amusing. I watch them for ages laughing at the young birds playing with each other, frolicking about much as kittens do. No one could find them either dull or stupid who noticed their quaint ways and provided them with reasonably roomy quarters.

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* This makes the period of incubation about 24 days in each case.—Ed.

† It is not wise to pander to their tastes so, as unboiled milk is most dangerous in hot weather, unless it can be renewed several times daily.—Ed.

The Air Sacs of Birds.

By Ivan D. Murray.

In the issue of *The Field*, of March 28th last, an article under the above heading appeared. To my mind the worst part of the article was that the matter therein was inconclusive. Suffice it to say that after advancing seven theories in all, the author leaves one in doubt as to which is correct. Briefly the seven theories are:

1st. That the reservoirs of air serve to erect the feathers.

2nd. That they are resonatory organs to increase the strength and timbre of the bird's voice.

3rd. That they have a directly respiratory function.

4th. That they serve to reduce the specific gravity of the body, as a whole.

5th. That they act like the swim bladders of fishes.

6th. That they are sense organs comparable with aneroids.

7th. That when inflated they serve to fix the wings, when extended, in a horizontal position.

And lastly, the "theory mostly favoured of late years," that they serve merely as a mechanical adjunct to the respiratory system.

On the top of all these theories, each perfectly feasible to the lay mind, Mr. D. Müller, of the Smithsonian Institution, at Washington, brings forward a theory of his own.

His theory is "that neither the air sacs nor air cavities in the bones of birds have special or positive functions of their own," but he regards them "as a series of empty spaces of which the value lies in their very emptiness." He argues that "the ancestral bird adapted itself for flight by divesting itself of all superflous material, and occupied the body spaces thus obtained with air sacs, and further mobility of the parts was secured by surrounding them with air sacs." Hence we must believe that the connection between the air sacs and the lungs is merely an accident of development, and beyond to a certain extent renewing the air in the windpipe have no physiological significance.

Now without dreaming of posting up an argument with so learned a man as Mr. Müller, may not these sacs besides being accidental in the first place have at some later date been made to serve as reservoirs. I remember some years ago an old Naturalist, who was my mentor in those young days, telling me that the wind never blew continuously, really, but with slight breaks which allowed the birds to fly. Where he got this theory from I cannot say, but I have noticed over and over again, that no matter how high a wind there is blowing, at any rate near the earth, there are constant pauses, not at any defined periods, but the blasts are not one long continued blast but with breaks between.

Now may not these sacs serve as reservoirs in case of need. Before a flight is started the sacs would be filled with air for the purpose of levitation. That supply is held there, in reserve, in the same way as the air supply used by persons descending foul mines, etc., is stored. If a long continued blast occurs, while the bird is flying, the difficulty of filling the lungs then would be very great, whereas sufficient could be drawn from the reservoirs to tide over the gush and the supply could be renewed as soon as the break in the wind occurred. This theory practically embodies Theory No. 3, except that in my suggestion the supply is not in constant use, but is only drawn on in case of need.

Mr. Müller discredits the respiratory function theory very ably by showing that "at each inspiration the air would give off some of its oxygen in the lungs but not in the air sacs. At the expiration that air from the lungs would pass through the bronchi into the trachea and the air from two air sacs would pass into the lungs and there be deprived of some of its oxygen. At the next inspiration the air in the lungs (poor in oxygen) would be driven back into air sacs. At the next inspiration the air from the air sacs would pass again into the lungs and being poor in oxygen would be ill adapted for respiratory purposes." The process continued would of course result in the air sacs being in time practically deprived of all its oxygen.

Now, just for the sake of argument, take it that my theory is feasible. The bird starts off with a good supply of air, both in the lungs and in the air sacs. Circumstances arise which necessitate the bird drawing upon its reserve air. The lungs are filled with an internal inspiration, so to speak, and the expiration, which would necessarily follow, would leave both air sacs and lungs practically empty. Now supposing the air sacs have a physiological function, the following inspiration would fill the air sacs and the lungs with a new supply and the bird is ready to encounter a prolonged gust of wind or whatever circumstances that might entail its existing for a longer period without an external inspiration than usual.

Apart from the reservoir theory however. To my mind the following process might quite reasonably be expected to take place. The first inspiration fills the lungs and the air sacs; then follows the expiration. The air passing from the air sacs to the lungs counts as the next inspiration, as I term it an internal inspiration. What naturally follows is an expiration of the air already in the lungs and not as one would be led to suppose from Mr. Müller's theory, an inspiration leaving both lungs and air sacs ready for a new supply altogether. I may of course be arguing upon a perfectly wrong basis, and the bird may not be able to fill the air sacs; but if it is able to do this, it seems unnatural that there should be two inspirations to one expiration. I quote at the end of this article, verbatim, Mr. Müller's theory taken from *The Field*, of March 28th, from which my line of argument will perhaps be more clear.

Now take another discredited theory, No. 4. What is the reason of the curious up and down flights of such birds as the Goldfinch. At the first pulse of the bird's wings, the bird rises, at the top of the pulse the highest line of flight is reached, and at the end of the pulse the point reached is about on a level with the position before the pulse commenced. This may of course be, and very likely is, merely the effect of propulsion and similar to the flight of a bullet through the air. But may it not also be that the air sacs are filled for rising, and as the air becomes exhausted the bird drops only to rise again when the air sacs are re-filled. This is of course taking it that the sacs are in constant use. This would embody Theory No. 5, and would also be more or less applicable to my own theory, as the up and down strokes of the flight are far more noticeable, in windy weather, in almost all birds.

Now how does he argue when he takes the Ostrich, or even the barn door fowl, who do very little in the way of flying. One would expect, believing Mr. Müller, that as in adapting themselves to flight they put off or lost all superfluous material, so when they give up the practical everyday use of the wings for flight, they would fill their air spaces with something more substantial than air. To poultry keepers this would be a benefit, but facts are facts. The Ostrich may still require to draw upon his reservoirs, if running against a head wind, and the barn door fowl might be called upon to keep running without the chance of an external inspiration. But the empty sacs in "their emptiness" are really of no benefit to them.

Will some of the readers of *Bird Notes* let me have their theories on this matter. Now that the problem of aerial navigation is before the public, many lessons could I fancy be learnt, in construction, by studying the internal construction of our feathered friends.

Mr. Müller's arguments to disprove the respiratory functions of air sacs from *The Field*, March 28th. "Let us suppose that during inspiration the lungs and air sacs are filled with fresh air; that which reaches the lungs would then give off a portion of its oxygen, that in the air sacs would not. During the expiration the air from the lungs would be driven out through the bronchi into the trachea, and the air from the sacs would pass into the lungs. There the latter air would be deprived of a portion of its oxygen. During the next inspiration this air (poor in oxygen) would again pass from the lungs into the air sacs (I say here there are two inspirations to one expiration.—I. M.) During the next inspiration (sic.) the same air would then again fill the lungs, and these would then always contain air poor in oxygen, and therefore ill adapted for respiratory purposes.

The writer of the article to *The Field* adds "Assuming the premises to be correct the argument appears to be conclusive."

[We publish the above with some misgivings as to its general acceptance, but the subject is of much interest and further discussion is invited. ED.]

I cannot believe Nature ever did anything purposelessly or accidentally, let alone gave parts that were of no use or had no function. I believe the air sacs of birds which communicate with the lungs on the one hand, and the interior of most of their bones on the other, have, in conjunction with the *lungs* and *bones*, many functions; the principal of which are respiration, locomotion by diminishing the weight of the body, and, by the position of the air sacs, rendering equlibrium especially during volition more stable, and by increasing the range and power of the voice. The air sacs or sinuses of the elephant's cranium, and the air sacs or sinuses as well as the guttural pouches of the horse have some points in common with the air sacs, etc., viz. by the rarefied air contained in them lightening the bulk of the head. In addition these cells in these mammals aid audition and olfaction. In proof of the air sacs and bones being organs of respiration, respiration takes place through a broken leg bone after the wind pipe has been tied. H.G.

Notes on the Wild Life of the Budgerigar.

By W. H. Payne.

This quaint, but handsome, little bird is one of the most common of all Australian birds. We see it in every part of Australia, from Cape York to Cape Londonderry. Its fecundity is astonishing, while its breeding habits are different to all other birds that ever came under my notice; they will creep into any hole they can find, where they will lay two eggs only at first, then they commence to sit, both taking turns at incubation; when the two are hatched they will commence to feed the young. This is but a light task, food being very plentiful, for they never start breeding save where the grass is ripe. If you look into the nest, as the writer has done, a week or so after the first two are hatched, you will see one or two eggs with the two young: the old ones sit on them at night; by the time the first two hatched are strong enough to get outside, the next two are hatched, and so on, until they have as many as four, and sometimes five, pairs; so you will see by this that one thousand pairs will produce eight thousand young birds. They are so common, you may ride for weeks and drive them up in front of your horse from sunrise until sunset.

As already noted they build in holes of the limbs of the white gums,—every one of these trees having all the limbs as hollow as piping, with an outlet at some part or the other. They are seed-eaters and must consume an enormous amount of grass seed.

This species is not of much account to the trappers, as they are so low in price, and one of the largest eaters of any bird I am acquainted with. Certainly the species could never be extinct, as they live and breed in districts where no white man could go and make it pay. It was very different away back in the fifties, when the first few pairs fetched £50 a pair.

The Budgerigar in Captivity.

By WESLEY T. PAGE, F.Z.S., etc.

This is intended not as a complete account, but merely a few notes in comparison with the interesting account Mr. Payne gives of its wild life, which is certainly all too brief.

A EULOGY: Certainly at the present time, in spite of its being cheap and common, it is a universal favourite. If any species of foreign bird may be called "everybody's bird," most decidedly the Budgerigar merits that title. Again, there are few birds to my mind more beautiful than a well conditioned Budgerigar, and the original stock, viz., the Green variety, I consider more beautiful than the more costly Yellow—man's creation. To be seen at their best they must be in a roomy garden aviary, which allows of herbage of some kind being kept up. In such an enclosure the display is very fine at all times, while to watch them after a shower and note the abandon with which they throw themselves about and roll in the wet herbage, as they thus take their bath is a sight to be remembered for many a long day, and one which the writer often misses since his aviaries have been occupied by rarer, but certainly not to the eye more attractive species.

THEIR FECUNDITY: In the aviary, as is well known, they use a husk or log in lieu of the hollow limbs of the Eucalypti which are so plentiful in their native haunts. In captivity their fecundity is even greater than when wild, for many pairs in my aviary have reared three or four broods each season consisting of from four to seven, and not by couples as in their native haunts, so that for the progeny of say three pairs to reach fifty in a single season is by no means an extraordinary occurrence. In 1906, two pairs successfully reared thirty-six young to maturity. They retain their wild habits sufficiently to lay another clutch, before the earlier brood has left the nest, and as a consequence many eggs are spoiled, which is not surprising, considering the number of young (usually five) crowded within the precincts of a cocoa-nut husk.

PROTECTIVE RESEMBLANCE: This I should say would be very striking when seen in their native haunts. It is sufficiently so, with them in captivity, again and again in my aviary only movement has revealed them among growing grass, rape, etc. If this be the case among the somewhat sparse growth they permit to flourish in the aviary, what must it be amid the rank grass of their native wilds?

DIET: Many will say that in *Bird Notes* this is not necessary; it may not be for the bulk of our members, but correspondence proves, that if *B.N.* is to meet the needs of all, accounts even of common species must be comprehensive. This is very simple: canary seed, white, spray, and small brown millet and oats, with green food and cuttle fish will suffice for them at all periods, when breeding or otherwise. As to green food, they will eat lettuce readily, but what they delight in is grass in flower or grass in the ear, of this they cannot have too much. I do not think they despise insect food when wild, undoubtedly grass seed is their main diet, but judging by the eagerness with which they secure and devour mealworms when confined with insectivorous birds I am convinced that many a juicy grub and caterpillar varies their seed *menu*.

AVIARY: Almost any structure will suffice, that supplies the accommodation of an ordinary fowl run. The shed must be draught and wet proof, and the whole so constructed that there is sufficient shelter to prevent the wind blowing right through it. I have found an aviary that is open at front and top only answer best for nearly all species.

CAGE: This should be of the box type and roomy, say 2½ft. by 1½ft. by 3ft. high. I shall hope in a later issue to illustrate a cage, which answers well for many species besides small parrakeets.

A Visit to the Little Zoo, Bath.

By O. MILLSUM.

A visit to any place that contains foreign birds, is always one to which a true aviculturist looks forward to with feelings of intense delight, and especially if he is an exhibitor of insatiable curiosity. As to the former feelings, one can readily understand them, but to comprehend the latter, one must be an exhibitor and a keen one. Then one can fully fall in with the view that curiosity enters largely into the promised joys. Perhaps a better way would be to define it "a thirst for knowledge and comparison of one method with another." I mentioned that it was with feelings of curiosity that an exhibitor approaches a collection of birds, more especially if they are rare and choice species. In the first place he goes with the intention of adding another star to his team; secondly he goes with a view to criticise and coolly calculate what chance his birds would have if they were to meet the strangers on the show bench. Then again, apart from these reasons, the visiting of aviaries, bird-rooms or dealer's collections, affords one an excellent chance of adding to one's knowledge of the many beautiful species that are included in that all too vague term "Foreign Birds." Each year numerous additions are being made to the list that are brought to this country, and consequently visits made to the various importers are certain to be repaid by the seeing at least of a few specimens new to this country. Then again, one ought never be too old to acquire knowledge, and many, many useful tips may be gained during these visits. It may be in the feeding of his stock, or it may be in the housing, but take my advice, if you visit, keep your eyes open, and should you see anything you don't understand, do not be afraid to ask about it, for its all "Threadneedle Street to an Orange" that he will only be too pleased to give you the fullest particulars, and pleased to think that he has an appreciative listener, or at any rate a hearer who has found something out of the common amongst his collection. Some will say "but some will not part with their little secrets, and would feel offended if one asked for a little information." Nonsense! the majority of aviculturists are only too pleased to give all the help and advice they can. At least this is my experience. There are a few about, it is true, who are a little churlish, and the best thing when asked to visit their domain, is to follow "Punch's" advice to those about to marry, "Don't."

Should your visit be to an importer, you will be interested in the methods of treating the birds, and especially those specimens that you keep yourself, and a chat about the habits of the birds in their native haunts is sure to prove interesting and instructive.

Being an ardent aviculturist, the prospects of a visit to Messrs. Payne and Wallace, The Little Zoo, Bath, (at the expressed wish of our worthy editor, who found it inconvenient to make the journey himself just at this time) was eagerly looked forward to. These gentlemen (the Bushmen, as they term themselves) make a speciality of importing Australian birds and animals, and they make it a boast that all their stock are caught by themselves, and not bought second-hand from natives or sailors. In addition to this, I have had many dealings with this firm and can honestly say that better or fairer treatment could not be desired. Should it be possible, I would strongly advise intending purchasers of Australian birds or animals to visit the Little Zoo at Bath. One great drawback to this is that very often one is tempted to speculate more than was originally intended, by being influenced by seeing so many beautiful birds.

The first thing that attracts attention upon entering their grounds, Grounds please, not the bird shops usually found as head-quarters of foreign bird importers, is the out-door aviary in which are kept Parrakeets, Doves and Pigeons. This is highly suggestive of the aviary of a private fancier, and is divided into two portions. In the one half are specimens of Australian Doves and Pigeons, comprising the well-known Diamond Dove, Peaceful, Bronze-neck and Tuscan Green-winged Doves; the Plumed, Bronze-winged, Brush Bronze-winged and Crested Pigeons. In the other half were Parrakeets, Yellow Collar or Twenty-eights, Many-colours, and White-eared Conures. Alongside this were a few cages apparently just as they had left the ship, containing several small Kangaroos. A few steps away was the admirable structure built expressly for the finches and the more valuable specimens. Entering here the aviculturist is simply amazed. A feast for the eyes worthy of the trouble and expense incurred in travelling a long distance to see them. Leaving aside many comments which ought to be made upon the admirable manner in which these birds are kept, which is far in advance of anything the writer has ever seen upon dealers premises, one is immediately drawn to a cage containing a most perfect specimen of the Pileated or Red-capped Parrakeet (*Platycercus spurius*) a bird of uncommon beauty. Extremely rare, Mr. Payne informed me, that excepting a pair they brought over with their last year's consignment, which were the first to be brought over to this country, these are, as far as his knowledge goes, the only specimens in Europe. Is it needless to add that there is only one thing that prevented the writer from bringing this bird and its mate back home with him, (price). I herewith give particulars of its beauty as taken from the specimen as I stood in front of its cage. Beautiful rich red cap, violet, or more to the writer's idea of colours, a saxe-blue front, scarlet under vent and thighs, cheeks to back of neck shading from a beautiful grass-green to a rich yellowy-green, back and wings rich reseda-green, rump yellowish-green, flight feathers black tinged with blue, butt of wings blue, bill horn colour, longish upper mandible, feet blackish. A friend who accompanied me suggested that it reminded him of a glorified Gouldian finch.

After that one felt they had better turn their attention elsewhere, feeling strongly the need of remembering the commandment "*Thou shalt not covet*," I saw several cages containing several species of Parrakeets, etc., including one housing a charming collection of Crimson-wings. One could not but be struck with the difference shown between the immature specimens and an adult in the same cage. At first I was inclined to think that this was not the Crimson-wing of the English show bench, but upon Mr. Payne pointing out the adult bird which had escaped our notice, one could readily fall in with the remark that these were young birds. In the latter the Crimson on the wings was very slight compared with that of the full-grown bird, but here is a rare chance for obtaining that desideratum of the alien keeper—excuse the term ye foreign bird lovers—young birds.

Beside these was a lovely collection of the Earl of Derby or Stanley Parrakeets, now fairly well known, a description of which I need not give. Then our eyes rested on a cage containing several Red-collared Lorikeets (*Trichoglossus rubritorques*) very handsome, resembling very closely the well-known Blue Mountain or Swainson's Lorikeet with the exception of a red band round the collar, instead of the yellowish-green found on the latter. Their head is blue, chest red, under parts olive-green, band on nape orange-red.

Next to attract our attention were some very charming Rock Parrakeets, (*Neophema petrophila*) very rare specimens and in most superb condition. Their general colouring is—frontal band deep indigo blue, no yellow-lores, all upper surface yellowish olive-green, under surface yellow.

Then followed the finches, Red and Black-headed Gouldians, in all their glory; quite the finest collection I have ever seen for condition and health. Masked, Bicheno, Ruficauda, Long-tail Grass, Pectoralis, Yellow-rumps and Zebra finches. These species are so well-known to every foreign bird enthusiast that they call for no description on my part; but I certainly cannot pass over the Crimson finches and Painted finches (*Emblema picta*) without comment. The Crimson, Blood or Fire finches were a charming collection, in the pink of condition and health, real gems, for just as I was taking notes, the sun settled on their cage giving them the effect of little balls of fire. Description: male—Crimson tinged with brown on top of head and wings, a few white spots on sides; female: less red on under surface. The Painted finch, the pride of Messrs. Payne and Wallace's collection, and rightly so. I may perhaps be permitted to say in support of this, that they have every reason to be proud of getting these rare and beautiful birds over such a long and trying journey, in such perfect condition and health. Adult male: general colour—above pale brown, upper tail covert rich scarlet, head brown like back, as also the sides of face and of neck, feathers below eye and fore parts of cheeks scarlet, throat and upper surface of body black, chin and upper throat with scarlet tipped feathers, centre of fore neck and chest also scarlet, sides of breast and abdomen spotted white.

The collection also included such birds as the Great Billed Black Cockatoo, (*C. macrorhynchus*). We understood that this bird was sold at a very high figure, and that Mr. Payne intended to personally deliver it the following day. The Buff Laughing Kingfisher, (*Dacelo cervina*); the Laughing Jackass, Silvery Crowned Friar Birds, Sacred Kingfishers, Marble Owl, Brown-striped Hawk and Dusky Minah, not forgetting Cockatoos of various species.

Very comfortably housed in the same house were Kangaroos of different varieties, apparently very happy in their environment. Leaving here we were conducted to what appeared to us an exaggerated poultry run, containing some very fine Spotted Emus. All seemed exceedingly tame and very fit. Lying in the grounds were the packing cases which had brought these large birds over, and Mr. Payne pointed out to us how the cases had been enlarged as the birds grew during the journey. He informed us that when they left the depôt at Wild Dog Creek, N. W. Australia, they were only the size of ordinary fowls, but as we saw them they stood upwards of five feet high. We could see for ourselves how the cases had been added to in the manner described.

It was indeed a pleasure to chat with Mr. Payne on the wild habits of all these species, and the methods adopted for catching and transporting them, and we must confess ourselves greatly indebted to him for the courtesy and trouble taken to make our visit pleasant and interesting. Apart from this one must admit that words fail to adequately describe the generally superb condition of the birds and animals, after such a trying journey of forty days. The consignment, by the way, came *via* the Cape and reached here on Good Friday, and we saw them on the following Wednesday. After wishing Mr. Payne good-day, we hurried down Lyncombe Hill to catch our train after one of the most enjoyable and instructive afternoon holidays I have ever spent.

Editorial.

THE ASSUMPTION OF SEASONAL PLUMAGE. Many interesting and valuable facts if members would take careful notes, as to the change, that is method, dates, etc., from Winter to Summer or Nuptial plumage. With Weavers, Whydahs, etc., this is brought about by a growth of colour and not by a moult, only a few of the larger wing-feathers being shed. I have had this Spring an annoying loss, arising from some netting becoming loose, and a fine Madagascar Weaver which had endured our weather for six years, got behind same and perished miserably before its predicament was discovered. It was about one-third in colour, that is as to area of change, and I made a careful examination of its plumage; though for a number of years I have closely observed the birds during the seasonal change, I was not aware the change was so gradual as the condition of this bird's plumage indicated, for there almost every shade of colour, ranging from pale orange to the full rich scarlet of the perfect nuptial garment; some of the feathers showing the transition from orange to scarlet. To sum up, the conditions of the whole plumage pointed to the fact that in the change from orange to scarlet, the colour first appears at the bases of the feathers, spreading to the tips and deepening in hue at the same time. Not having examined a skin at this stage before I was somewhat surprised, as though my observations had fully vindicated the assertions of other aviculturists as to colour growth, yet such observations had not led me to suspect that the full rich scarlet was obtained by a gradual change through orange to scarlet. I should be glad of confirmation or otherwise upon this point and venture to hope that members will record their experiences. If members get any losses during this seasonal change I should be extremely obliged if they would send me the bodies. One other fact may be noted, viz. that after they have been twelve months in this country the vagaries of English weather do not affect or delay the change to any appreciable extent; while a newly imported specimen, procured in full colour, promptly goes out of colour if cold weather intervenes, and does not assume nuptial plumage till the following year, this has occurred with me on many occasions; while the awful weather of April has neither retarded nor yet diminished the depth of hue of my Madagascars, which are, April 25th, in almost the full glory of Summer dress.

MELANISTIC PEKIN ROBINS. Doubtless many will recollect the specimens of this species, which were splashed with black on the breast, quite a largish number were imported so marked, and they were not confined to one dealer. Several pairs of them being exhibited at either the Crystal Palace or Horticultural Hall, a season or two ago. If I remember rightly both Mr. Finn and myself described them as melanistic. When viewing Mrs. Warren Vernon's fine collections of birds last summer, I admired a very fine pair of Pekins that were flying in her bird-room. She remarked, that is the pair which I exhibited at ——— with black on their breasts, they have now moulted out and no trace of black is left. At intervals the following questions have suggested themselves to me. Was the black really abnormal, or are the young at a given age more or less so marked? Perhaps Messrs. Finn or Harper, both of whom are I believe acquainted with this species in their native haunts, or any other of our members who have experience with the species wild, may be able to throw any light upon this point. At any rate one thing is clear, that if abnormal, the colouring was but temporary, at any rate as regards one pair of birds, for after the moult this pair were richly but normally coloured birds.

EARLY NESTING NOTES. In spite of the awful cold weather, nesting has commenced. In a letter dated April 14th, our esteemed member, Mr. Teschemaker, informs me he has had nests and eggs from Cirl Buntings, Blue Grosbeaks (first time in captivity I think), and Scaly-fronted Weavers; these have yielded no result, the two former being evidently disturbed and their fellow captives were removed when too late; the eggs of the Scaly-fronts were infertile owing to the somewhat unfit condition of the male bird. Mr. T. has again succeeded in breeding *Serinus angolensis*, and it is worth noting that his success again occurs very early in the year, for at above named date he had young out of the nest. None of my Finches have yet nested—in respect to the awful weather of this month I have kept nesting material strictly out of the way. The only ones yet with young being Diamond Doves and Cockateels.

A CONSIGNMENT OF RARE INDIAN BIRDS. On Saturday, May 2nd, I had the privilege of looking over the fine series of birds, just brought over by our esteemed member, Captain Perreau. What with weather, difficulty of keeping up a supply of live insects, etc., many choice avian gems have "departed" during the voyage; nevertheless over a hundred have been safely landed, among which are many rarities and I only regretted that all the really rare ones were not coming my way. When one has heard all the difficulties of trapping, meating off, the long land journey to the coast and the voyage over, one is able to understand a little what an achievement and also an endless toil and labour, bringing over such a series really is. Apart from frayed tails, etc., nearly all were looking very fit. I will briefly pass a few of them in review.

BLUE-FRONTED REDSTART (*Rulicilla frontalis*): It was a revelation to see this dainty creature flitting about, fearless, confiding, while his gracefulness of form and general deportment must be seen to be appreciated. Briefly, as far as my memory serves me, its plumage is as follows: Forehead and over the eyes, bright blue; remainder of head, throat and breast, bluish-dusky; wings, blackish; rump, tail and under-surface, rufous brightest on the rump and under-surface; bill, black; legs and feet, brown. About 6in. to 6½in. long, and of very elegant build. It is found in the Himalayas and Khasi Hills.

PLUMBEOUS REDSTART (*Ruticilla fuliginosa*): Equally vivacous and pleasing as the preceding, which in form and deportment it resembles. My notes were largely mental and very rough, but the upper surface was slaty- or dusky-blue, and the under surface and tail very largely of a rufous hue. Its tail was a fair example of perpetual motion, and was being opened and shut fan-wise. An exquisitely beautiful bird, though not richly clad. I shall hope to give a fuller description later as one of the three landed I have been fortunate enough to procure. Jerdon calls it the Plumbeous Water Robin.

WHITE-CAPPED REDSTART (*Chœmorrornis leucocephala*): This was rather rough in plumage, but still very fit, and giving promise of even greater beauty than the two preceding; as I made no note of this species I quote the following description of the male from Jerdon's "Birds of India":

> "Frontal band, lores, ear-coverts, throat, neck and breast, back, wings and tip of "tail feathers, black; abdomen, rump, upper and lower tail coverts, and more than "two-thirds of the tail, deep rich chestnut; crown of head and nape, pure white: bill, "black; legs, vinaceous-brown; irides, bark brown. Total length 7½in."

The Redstarts feed almost exclusively on insects, and in captivity should be fed on soft food and a liberal supply of live insects.

THE BLUE WOOD-CHAT *Larvivora cyana*): This pretty species has already been described from notes by Captain Perreau in a recent issue of *Bird Notes.* And though only a female has survived the ordeals of the voyage, this is one of the fittest birds among the series, and not merely pretty but certainly beautiful, while when one pauses to admire its graceful contour and deportment it is simply entrancing. That fourth commandment went by the board again while I admired this lovely little creature.

THE BLUE-HEADED ROBIN (*Adelura cœruleicephala*): Oates' call this species the Blue-headed Wood Chat. Almost as dainty and fairy-like as the preceding; a pair and an odd ♂ were disporting themselves about the room while I watched them, making observation very difficult; but they appeared to be blackish Prussian-blue above, and whitish below; forehead and front of crown being cyaneous. It feeds, when in its native wilds, mostly on the ground and practically entirely on various insects. Diet in captivity: soft food and live insects in abundance.

THE RED-FLANKED BUSH ROBIN (*Ianthia rufilata*): Very similar to the preceding, but has the flanks rusty-red, and a little ultramarine-blue on the shoulder. Only one landed.

Of the following, only one of each survived the voyage: Himalayan Ruby-throat (*Calliope kamtschatkensis*) a fine songster; Blue-headed Rock Thrush (*Petrophlia cinclorhyncha*); The Green-backed Tit (*Parus monticolus*) a lovely bird, very similar to the English Great Tit, but richer and purer in hue, very tame and fearless; Magpie Robin or Dayal Bird (*Copsychus saularis*); Himalayan Streaked Laughing-Thrush, Grey-headed Ouzel (*Merula castanea*); Indian Pipit (*Pipastes agilis*) very similar to the English bird, but more fulvous on the lower face and sides of neck; Chinese Laughing Thrush (*Trochalopterum canorum*) also known as Spectacled Thrush; Himalayan Linnet.

Of the following, several odd birds and pairs were safely landed: Himalayan Whistling Thrush (*Myiophoneus temmincki*) a bird of large size, great beauty and power of song; Grey-winged Ouzel (*Merula boulboul*) a well known species, of fine appearance and grand songster; Accentors (*Accentor strophiatus ?*) The Rufous-breasted; Himalayan Goldfinch

(*Carduelis caniceps*); Himalayan Greenfinch; Pink-browed Rosefinches (*Propasser rhodochrous*) very beautiful birds, rich in colour, rare and should be probable breeders; Cinnamon Tree Sparrows (*Passer cinnamomeus*); Gold-fronted Green Bulbul (*Phyllornis aurifrons*); White-cheeked Bulbul (*Otocompsa leucogenys*); Red-vented Bulbul (*Pycnotus hœmorrhos*); Red-headed Bunting (*Euspiza luteola*); Black-headed Bunting (*Euspiza melanocephala*); Crested Buntings (*Melopus melanicterus*); White-crested Laughing Thrush (*Garrulax leucolophus*); Black-headed Sibia (*Malacias capistrata*); Hill Mynah (*Mainatus intermedius*); Pied Mynah (*Sturnospastor contra*); Rose-coloured Starlings (*Pastor roseus*) in exquisite condition and colour, the finest couple I have ever seen.

The Quails safely landed consist of: The Jungle Bush, The Bustard, The Little Button and Rain Quails.

Of the following species, all died during the voyage: The White Spotted Forktail; The Fantail; The Rufous-tail Lark; The Black-headed Yellow Bulbul (*Iora zeylonica*); The Orange-gorgeted Flycatcher; The Desert Finch; The Black-bellied Lark.

The foregoing notes barely does justice to this really fine, rare and uncommon series of Indian Birds, and Capt. Perreau is certainly to be congratulated on his achievement. Meagre as the above notes are, we shall hope to have them supplemented later, as many of the birds are passing into our members' bird-rooms and aviaries. Note: It may possibly be necessary to correct one or two of the names in our next issue, as not only was close observation difficult, time limited, and most of my notes mental, consequently some corrections may be necessary.

A VISIT TO THE LITTLE ZOO. On the same afternoon (May 2nd), I called and looked over the recent arrivals at the "Little Zoo," Bath; Mr. Millsum's description makes further comment superfluous, but I fully endorse his remarks as to the well being and fitness of the whole series. Two species interested me greatly, The Grey-crowned Friar Birds and the Dusky Mynah, this latter I opine is the only survivor, though in the hurry I omitted to ask whether any had been distributed to other aviculturists, this fine bird has since come into my possession and I shall hope to notice this and Friar Birds in our next issue.

Reviews and Notices of New Books.

THE JOURNAL OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.* The April issue opens up a new volume (XV.). Both scope and size have been increased; the various subjects are dealt with in a practical and comprehensive manner, illustrated with diagrams. Some of the principal features of the issue are as follows:—

Creation of Small Holdings under the Act of 1907.
Farmyard Manure.
Pruning of Fruit Trees (illustrated).
Supposed Degeneracy of the Potato.
Meadow Saffron (*with coloured plate*).
Notes on Insects, Fungus and other Pests.
Varieties of Apples suitable for different districts.
Report of the Wooburn Experimental Fruit Farm.
Notes on March Weather.
,, ,, Crops Abroad.
Diseases of Animals.
Additions to the Library, etc.

Not only of practical utility to the Agriculturist, but equally so to all owners of gardens, whether large or small.

BRITISH BIRDS: The current number completes the first volume of this interesting and instructive Magazine. It contains the indices, and a number of most interesting and excellently illustrated articles and notes. Two of the most interesting perhaps are Mr. P. H. Bahr's paper on the "Development of a Young Cuckoo," the various stages being ably illustrated by reproductions from photographs by the Author; and Mr. Pycraft's article on the "Nest of the Ringed Plover and the Evolution of Birds' Nests in General," also most lavishly illustrated with photographic reproductions. The issue is fully up to the average, and should be on the bookshelf of every student and lover of our native avifauna.

BRITISH BIRDS NESTS, How, when and where to find and identify them. By R. and C. KEARTON. Published by CASSELL & Co., in 1/- fortnightly parts.

Part 6 is to hand, and is a marvel of quality and cheapness; its authors' names are a sufficient warrant of the excellence of the photographic reproductions which adorn the work; the text is clear and concise. The present number contains two coloured plates, figuring the eggs of thirteen different species; and photographic reproductions of the nest, and eggs of Common Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Herring Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Hen Harrier, Marsh Harrier, Montagu's Harrier, Hawfinch, Heron, Hobby and Jackdaw; with other illustrations of adults and nestlings, and typical haunts of various species. Indispensable to all interested in our native avifauna.

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* Apply The Board of Agriculture and Fisheries, 4, Whitehall Place, London, S.W. Annual Subscription, 4/-.

BRITISH WARBLERS.* By H. ELIOT HOWARD, F.Z.S., etc. Part II. A sumptuously and beautifully illustrated work of intrinsic value on one of the most interesting groups of our English avifauna. The coloured plates figure three immature Sedge Warblers and the ♂ Chiff-Chaff, the ♀ Chiff-Chaff and two young; there are also five photogravures figuring the two sexes in characteristic attitudes, including courting postures and flight. The Yellow-browed and Grasshopper Warblers are also figured in colour. Life history, Geographical distribution, etc., are fully given; and the part gives promise that the completed book will be both a useful and beautiful one.

Correspondence.

SIR,—I enclose several cuttings from the *Australasian and Sydney Mail*, hoping they will be of some interest. J. HUME.

[To me the cuttings were of such interest that I am reprinting same in extenso, with apologies and thanks to the *A. & S. Mail*.—ED.]

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BUSH NOTES.

By F.R.

THE HONEY EATERS.

"A good test question for an examination upon Australian birds "would be—'What do you know about the honey-eaters? Describe the "different varieties.' And if the examiner were honest, he would add, "when marking the time allotted to the question, 'Two days.' Some time "ago I spent a few days in the Victoria valley, the other side of Dunkeld. "In this bird-paradise I shot three honey-eaters, for information, and when "I brought them home I tried to identify them by the aid of books of "reference. One, the crescent honey-eater, was easily placed; but the "others completely beat me. I do not suppose that many people know "that there are about 70 different honey-eaters to be found in Australia. "Sixty of these are called, straight-out, honey-eaters, with descriptive pre-"nomens, such as black-headed, fulvous-fronted, white-cheeked and so on. "But the homely, cheeky, white-eyes or silver-eyes of our gardens are also "honey-eaters, and there are five of these to add to the list. Then the

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* R. H. Porter, 7, Princes Street, Cavendish Square, London, W.

"Friar birds, or leather-heads, as they are more frequently called, also "belong to the same great family, and there are some half-dozen varieties "of leather-heads.

"As there is, of course, a family likeness amongst pretty well all the "family, and as some of the different members of it are much alike, identi- "fication often becomes a hopeless task to the amateur. Especially is this "the case when he finds the experts differing among themselves, with Mr. "North, of Sydney, on one side and Mr. A. J. Campbell, of Melbourne, on "the other. Another trap for the amateur is the difference that usually "exists between male and female, and between mature and immature birds. "Only recently by the way, I had an amusing experience of the confusion "caused by the slow development of plumage in connection with the "well-known Crimson Lory parrot. This bird is so common, both wild and "as a pet, that I thought everyone knew that for the first year the young "birds were almost all-green. But a bushman declared emphatically that "the green and the red birds were quite different, although he admitted that "they were found mixed together in flocks. The Crimson Lory is certainly "a striking instance of the difference, in plumage between young and "mature birds; but the same principle is common to the great majority of "our birds.

"Of course, not all of these 70 odd honey-eaters are found in Victoria, "but a large number of them, I should say about 45 different kinds, are; "so that the difficulty of identifying them is obvious. The honey-eaters "are a highly interesting family. Their most striking feature is their "strange brush-tipped tongue. It is an almost universal rule in the bird or "animal world that, when the beak or mouth is closed, the tongue dis- "appears inside and cannot be seen. But the honey-eaters are an exception "to this rule, as, when they close their beak, a little delicate brush, like a fine "camel-hair brush, is seen hanging from the end of the beak. It projects "varying distances, sometimes more than half-an-inch being visible, and at "first it appears as if the bird had something foreign in its mouth. Upon "opening the bill however, it is at once seen to be just a prolongation "of the tongue.

"The name of the bird, of course, tells one of the use of this brush- "tongue. The home of the honey-eater is in the tops of the red-gums and "yellow-boxes at flowering time. Then the birds have a thorough holiday "time. They flit from blossom to blossom, darting their feathery tongues "into the cups of the flowers and revelling in the honey. The trees in the "forests flower just when the young honey-eaters are ready, as a rule, to "leave their nests, so that the young ones have an easy start in life. It is "sometimes said that the honey-eaters are mis-named, and that it is not "honey but insects, that they search for in the blossoms. But you have "only to look at the bird's brush-tongues to see that, whatever they may be "seeking in the flowers, they simply cannot avoid getting their tongue "smothered with syrup; and surely the fact that the tongue has this brush "at the end of it indicates plainly enough the use of it. I have seen the "birds feeding often, and I am of the opinion that they do eat little minute "insects, and also pollen, but that the honey or syrup in the blossoms is "their favourite food. Of course, this is not always available. During the "depth of winter there are very few flowers about, and then the birds no "doubt live very much like the tramps, upon what they can get. But I am "certain that their name is a proper one and that they eat honey and "plenty of it.

"The honey-eaters can hardly be called musical birds. but there are "two or three members of the family which have very pretty and sweet "notes. One of these, a common one too, is known as the Singing Honey-"eater. Mr. A. J. Campbell says of this bird that he has never heard it "sing anything worth mentioning. Well, it certainly hasn't got the lovely "deep, liquid note of the harmonious shrike-thrush, for instance, but it "has a really sweet, singing warble, that I have listened to with delight "hundreds of times. A pair always nests near where I am writing, and "their melody is the first announcement that spring is come. For such a "small bird their notes are really loud, and to my mind there is not the "slightest doubt of their being musical. So I hereby accuse Mr. Campbell "of libel. Most of the honey-eaters indeed have something to say in the "musical way, but none that I know has notes anything so pretty as those "of the Singing Honey-eater.

"Very rarely does anyone molest the honey-eaters. Fortunately for "themselves, the birds are shy and retiring as a rule; and also as a rule they "are not so conspicuously plumaged. I have often had quite a search to "place one in a tree. Then, one of their favourite resorts is away in the "topmost branchlets of hugh towering gum trees. You will find the honey-"eater in the tops of all the gums, away up, 80ft. and 100ft. often, and "almost out of sight. There are some varieties, indeed, which hardly ever "come down to terra-firma, but practically live in the tree-tops. The best "place to see the honey-eaters is where the trees are low, but, naturally, "there are fewer birds in these localities than where the trees are high.

"I have said that the usual plumage of the honey-eaters is not con-"spicuous; but there are some members of the family which are very "showily dressed. One, with which I am not acquainted, and it is never "seen in Western Victoria, is the blood honey-eater. This bird has a bright "scarlet head and neck, and must, therefore be very conspicuous. Another, "a Queensland variety, of which very little is known, is called the gay-tinted "honey-eater—a name that is self-explanatory; while still another also very "rare, is the lovely painted honey-eater. These, however are the excep-"tions; and all or nearly all, the commoner varieties may well be termed "plainly-clad birds.

"The remark that the honey-eaters are rarely molested does not apply "to those members of the family known as white-eyes, or silver-eyes—"from the quaint spectacle-like adornments around the eyes. These birds "are very partial to gardens, where they will nest, if not molested. They "are thus handy at fruit time, when they at once get to work. The white-"eyes are always a source of anger to the gardener, and they are shot at "this time of the year without mercy. As there is nothing very attractive "about the bird, either in its appearance or its habits, and as it is fairly "plentiful, I am not going to condemn the gardeners altogether. But I "must say that, when there is no fruit available, the little white-eyes do a "deal of good in the gardens, by eating insects, aphis, scale, and other "fruit pests. So that, by killing them off the fruit-grower may be only "falling out of the frying-pan into the fire. I would advise some of these "irate orchardists, who see no good in any birds, to just put in a few spare "days when there is no fruit about, watching what the birds in their "gardens are doing. They might find that even the poor, little, much-"abused white-eye is really paying his way."

—*Australasian and Sydney Mail.*

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THE GOBURRA.

"It should be an axiom with our naturalists that the giant king-"fisher should be given its aboriginal name, which is both appropriate and "significant. To call the goburra the laughing jackass because its cry "resembles in some dim fashion the bray of the jackass is inappropriate. In "the New England district the aboriginal name for the bird is kookaburra, "which has the additional merit of being a musical cognomen. Dacelo "gigas is the scientific nomenclature of the great brown kingfisher, goburra, "or kookaburra, whose eerie laugh wakes the morning wasters of the bush "and anon bids good-bye to the sun. The bird is wisely protected on "account of its habit of destroying young snakes. The writer has seen four "of them making enough clatter to wake the dead round a large snake "which none of them were game to tackle. The birds knew their limita-"tions. They tried to hit it with their wings as they flew over the full-"gorged black snake, lying in the sun, but they finally gave up trying to "annoy it, and sat down on low bushes yelling at it, and no doubt telling "each other what they would do to it if they dared. The snake's only "response was to raise its head as they came close, and sway out of the "way of their flight, and then launch out a foot or so of body unavailingly "after them. The bird is a great destroyer of lizards, and small snakes, as "well as other vermin, and can eat a large number without straining its "crop. The eggs are large and white, and are deposited on decayed "wood in any convenient hollow of a eucalypt. There the lizards find "them and eat them. The average size of the egg is one and three-"quarter inch by one and a quarter inch. In the plumage of these birds "many curious large flat lice like ticks are found."

—*Australasian and Sydney Mail.*

BIRDS OF MY GARDEN.

By E. C. MORRICE.

"My garden is a sanctuary for birds.

"No boys with catapults or shot-guns maim or kill my feathered "friends. No ruthless egg-collectors rob their nests.

"The tall Californian pine, the feathery wattles, the hedges of "roses, laurel, and japonica afford shelter for their wondrously-woven "cradles, and newly-fledged nestlings. My warbling, trilling, twittering "guests go through their various stages of courting, nesting, and rearing of "young in security.

"My reward is their confiding companionship, their tender melodies, "and their destruction of the enemies of my flowers ; grubs, caterpillars, "and grasshoppers.

"Come with me for a while through the sweet wildnerness of this old "garden. I will introduce you to my little refugees. Look up into the "green dome of those whispering pines.

"On a fragile, horizontal branch you will see a small cup-shaped nest, "silvered over with spider-webs. It is the cradle of the black and white "ringtail. You can see the little mother sitting in that silvery bowl. Her "long black tail, lined with white, protrudes from it on one side. Her rest-"less little head moves about on the other. She calls for her mate. 'Pretty "little creatures.'

"His complimentary answer comes back like an echo from the "willows over the creek, where he searches for her food. Higher up, sway-"ing among the topmost bows, is a magpie's nest. The birds have young "ones, but have such confidence in me and mine that they do not attempt "to chase us away as we stand looking up or passing underneath.

"There they warble, their flute-like evening and morning song. Here "they feed their nestlings, or walk about the garden paths, with dignified "composure, immaculately clean and neat, in black and white.

"Hark to that burst of melody from the top of the black wattle. A "short introductory whistle; then a trilling run like that of a canary, "followed by a sweet crescendo, as passionately pleading as that of the "nightingale.

"It is the pretty bird with white throat ; blackwinged, with russet-"tinted breast, and dark grey wings, known as the 'Australian canary.' "(Perhaps a reader of the *Mail* can give his correct name.)

"A harsher note comes from the small crimson-breasted redhead, "wearing a tiny scarlet cap, like that of a British soldier, on his velvety "black poll. He flits from tree to tree, calling for his mate, who has a less "vividly coloured front, and a dainty white dot on her head.

"Come now under this spreading cypress-tree. Do you hear a tiny "orchestra, like that of an elfin band ? It is the symphony of the silver-

"eyes, wonderfully sweet to hear, with its variety of liquid notes, subtly "subdued, so that it requires a musical ear to distinguish its rarified music.

"But here comes an unwelcome intruder. A weirdly mournful note "in the distance heralds his approach. It is coming nearer; now it dies away, "now it swells to louder notes; beseeching, desolate, indescribably sorrowful. "Here is the bird at last, up in that tall Acacia tree. The sun glints on his "back, which shines in a greenish colour.

"It is the bronze cuckoo. That outcast among birds. Its call is "utterly different from the favourite of poets, the English cuckoo, but its "female shares with her European sister the unnatural habit of depositing "her eggs in the nest of other birds, deputing strangers to rear her young.

"The soldier-birds and wagtails have discovered the undesired "visitor. They fly around with him with shrill abuse. It is strange that "this bird should be generally disliked by others. Some instinct warns "them against him, although they do not seem able to distinguish the egg "of the trespasser, nor the young, greedy cuckold, after they have hatched "him, from their own eggs and birds.

"Blue-crested wrens, with their soberly-clad small wives, are now "also chirping spitefully round the cuckoo, and a pair of graceful, exquis- "itely-marked pee-wits have joined the rest in tormenting the stranger.

"He has had enough of this, and flies away. Far off we hear him "complaining mournfully of the inhospitality of my garden birds, till his "piping dies away in the distance.

"Look under this trailing rose-bush. Do you see that cunningly- "woven bag of wool, grass and green moss? This is a tom-tits nest.

"The entrance is at the side; you may insert a finger, feeling how "soft and silky the inside is of this tiny cot.

"Yes, there are three little snow-white eggs in it. But here comes "the anxious little mother, with yellow breast, short tail, and grey-green "back.

"Her mate follows, twittering reproachfully, so we must leave them "in peace, turning our attention to those two dear swallows singing so "pleasantly on the garden gate.

"They leave us for a little while if the winter is very severe, but "sometimes remain all the time, spending the cold months in our big sand- "stonebarn, and returning to my garden with the return of spring.

"These Australian house-swallows have a much deeper rust-coloured "breast than the European ones, and sing as melodiously as an English "bullfinch, while their over-sea relations only twitter.

"A flash of scarlet, blue, and green comes though the pines trees. A "pair of rosella parrots dart past. They have their nest in that hoary "peppermint tree, near the creek, just outside the gate. There is one of "them just slipping into the hole high up in the tree-trunk.

"Another roll of melody. It comes from that snowy-blossoming pear "tree. This is the defiant, clarion-like note of the fierce shrike or butcher-"bird.

"See, there he is! A flat-headed, grey bird, bold marauder, and free-"lance, whose cruel beak is dreaded by smaller birds and beasts.

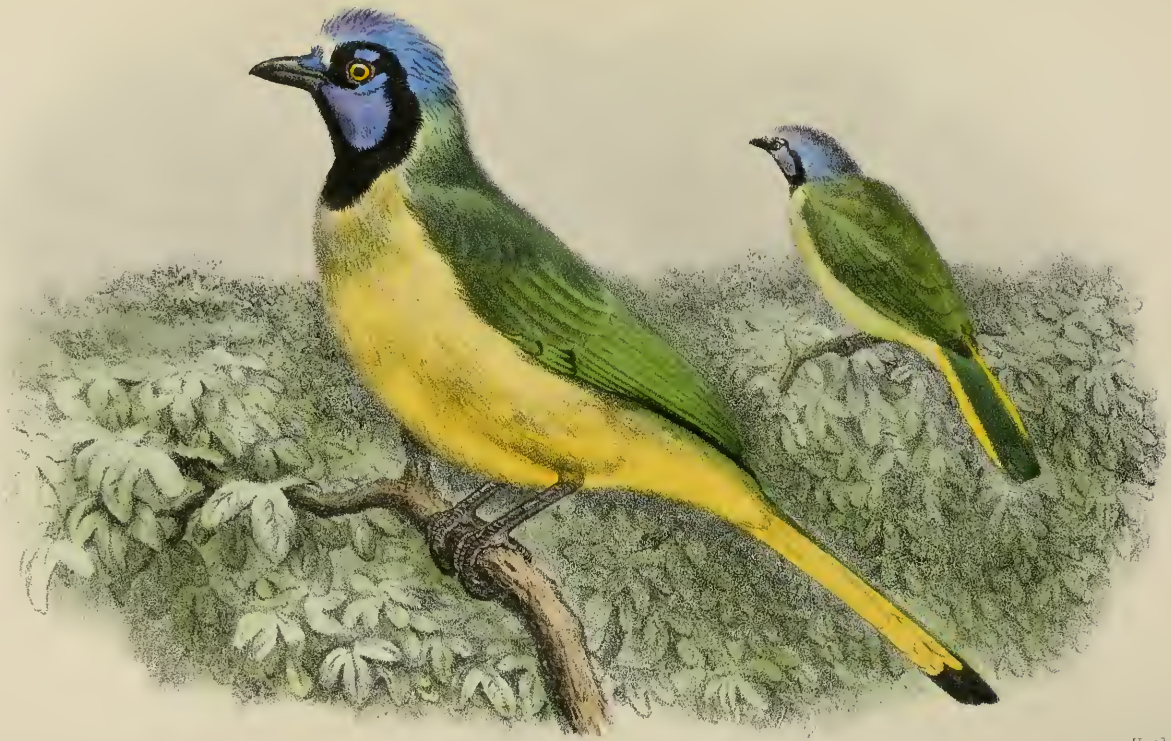
"He is not one of my favoured guests; a stone flung at random "hunts him from my sanctum. Away he goes. We hear his metallic voice "emphasising his indignation at a safe distance.

"'Chitta-bob, chitta-bob!' Here is the little bird that builds in a "hole in the walls or under the roofs. I have even heard him in our "country church, the impudent little fellow. He is a kind of diamond "sparrow, but not so beautifully speckled or coloured as those of his species, "flying in flocks, and seldom coming near human habitations.

"But now the sun is setting behind the wooded hills. My lodgers "are retiring to rest.

"The wagtail whistles goodnight to her husband; the magpies croon "a lullaby to their babies; the wrens give one trilling run of happiness, "and subside into silence; from the scrub comes the echoing laughter of "the 'shepherd's bell,' the kookaburras.

"Good-night; peace and security be with you, my feathered com-"panions." —*Sydney and Australasian Mail.*



H. Goodchild del. e.t. lith.

Huth imp

MEXICAN or GREEN JAY.
(Xanthura luxuosa)
From a living specimen in the possession of W. Cook, Esq.

All rights reserved]. [June, 1908.

BIRD NOTES:

— THE —

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

The Green or Mexican Jay.

(*Xanthoura luxuosa*).

By Mrs. E. Warren Vernon.

I have obtained a grass-green Inca Jay, and as it may be unknown to some of our members, a slight account of him may be interesting, and I hope Mr. Page will supplement this article with correct name, habitat, etc.*

It is a lovely bird, with really gorgeous plumage. Front of head, spot over eye, and nape of neck bright cobalt blue; crown green shot with blue; sides of head and throat black, relieved with several patches of sheeny purplish-blue; the blue of the nape imperceptably merges into the grass-green of the back and upper surface; the breast and entire under surface is lemon-yellow; two central tail feathers peacock-blue, the remainder grass-green; beak black; legs pale green; eye bright yellow with black iris, which dilates like a parrot's.

He is a very lively, vigorous and interesting bird, full of character, most decidedly a knowing bird. His beak is very strong, and he has a curious way of hitting or banging away at his perch with it if you look at him—as if to say he'd do the same to you if he could. His favourite cry is like a policeman's rattle, though he has other curious noises. He really is a delightful bird, bold and fearless, never in the same position for many minutes together, vivacious and full of life, and as he looks at you with his wicked or mischievous looking eye, combined with his glorious tropical plumage, he is a handsome fellow indeed, and his grandeur once seen is not readily forgotten.

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* I have placed correct name at head of article, and I am of the opinion that this species will be known to but few of our members. Mrs. Vernon's interesting and uncommon bird is one of six or seven that have been recently imported, though I am of the opinion that they include at least two species.—Ed.

DIET: This consists of mice, dead birds, liver, soft food, and fruit: he prefers grapes to any other kind of fruit. He gets a little raw meat when mice and birds are not to hand. A mouse he cleans out thoroughly till it is turned inside out, and only the dry hide left. Dead birds he always plucks, and consumes the brains first.

I have only had him a short time, but he promises to become a most interesting bird and beautiful beyond description a little later, his plumage being still a little rough. He is a great bather and also a rather noisy, garrulous and intelligent bird.

[Out of the six or seven specimens that have been imported three have found their way to the Zoo; one of these, the first arrival, only lived a few days; about two or three weeks later two other specimens came to hand, which I saw soon after their arrival, when they were still a little wild and were not steady enough for extended observation, but I am strongly of the opinion that they are not *X. luxuosa* but *X. peruviana*, which has the under surface of a much brighter yellow. In the interval between these two arrivals two other specimens came to hand, one being the individual Mrs. Vernon describes, and the other passing into the possession of Mr. W. Cook, who kindly permitted Mr. Goodchild to draw the beautiful and striking plate which illustrates this article. From the little I have seen of the Zoo specimens, the species is certainly fully deserving the warm eulogy Mrs. Vernon has bestowed upon her bird. As the species is practically new to English aviculture the following extract from Baird's "Birds of North America" may be of interest.—ED.]

"RIO GRANDE JAY (*Xanthoura luxuosa*).—*Specific Characters:* Wings shorter than "the tail, which is much graduated, the lateral feathers 1.25 inches shorter. Above "green; beneath yellow, glossed with green; inside of wings and outer four tail feathers "straw yellow; rest of tail feathers green, glossed with blue. Sides of the head, and "beneath from the bill to the forepart of the breast, velvet black. Crown, nape, and a "short maxilliary stripe running up to the eye and involving the upper eyelid, brilliant "blue; the nostril feathers rather darker; the sides of the forehead white. Bill black; "feet lead colour. Length 11 inches; wing 4.75; tail 5.40; tarsus 1.65.

"Hab.—Valley of Rio Grande, of Texas, and Southward.

"This species is closely related to *Xanthoura peruviana*, which however is pure "yellow beneath, has a white patch on the crown, and is, besides, considerably larger. "The *X. guatemalensis*, with a somewhat similar crown, has the abdomen yellow."

Variation in Birds.

By F. Finn, B.A., F.Z.S.

The subject of variations in birds is of the highest importance to all students of the class, but fanciers are almost the only people who can be said to have truly scientific knowledge of the subject—that is, knowledge based on observation and experiment; for it is by observing and breeding from variations that all results in the Fancy have been obtained.

We may divide variations in birds into two classes; those which may be called spontaneous, and those which are induced by circumstances. The former may be divided into two categories—individual variations, or the difference between one bird and another (such variations forming a continuous series), and abrupt or discontinuous variations, in which the varying individual presents a wide difference from others of its kinds.

Examples of induced variation are familiar to everybody in the colour-fed Canary and those Bullfinches which become black by the use of hemp seed. Spontaneous and natural variation is, of course, familiar to all fanciers, for it is on these that one places the valne of show birds. I may instance the Goldfinch as a bird which may vary much individually, whilst in the Sparrow the individual variations are much less perceptible.

Examples of abrupt or discontinuous variations may be found in such variations as the white Blackbird, cinnamon Sparrow, etc.

These abrupt colour variations generally fall under three heads, the white, or more or less complete albino, the black type or melanistic, and the pallid type, which may be either grey or cinnamon. Such birds as the yellow Canary and Budgerigar seem to represent the albino forms of green birds, since white Canaries are almost unknown and white Budgerigars completely so. Intermediate variations between the albino and normal form are of course common, being the well-known pied specimens, of which the London Sparrow furnishes numerous examples. It is notable that intermediate forms between cinnamon or grey varieties and the normal type seem very rarely to occur, although the pale or pallid form may be varied with white. Thus, in the little domestic Japanese Weaver-Finch, the Bengalee (*Urolonchu acuticauda*), may be found a dark-brown and white variety, which is the normal form with the addition of white feathers, and a cinnamon and white, but not a mixture of dark-brown and cinnamon.

In a complete albino, the eyes, bill and feet are all devoid of pigment, which results in the eye becoming pink ; and this may happen in the pale or cinnamon variety also ; but this is not always the case, for instance, white Jackdaws do not have pink eyes, while white Blackbirds have. Albinism is not always permanent; but the albino, on its moult, may revert to the naturally coloured form. Such a change, however, appears only to occur in specimens in which the beak, feet and eyes retain the natural colour. I have never known a case of such reversion in a pink-eyed bird, or in one which had flesh-coloured bill and feet. A converse change may also take place ; that is to say, a normally-coloured bird may become more or less white, generally on advancing age, which looks as if the phenomenon were analogous to grey hairs in our own species and in domestic animals. It is to be noted that in albino varieties any red colour found in type is pretty certain to be retained ; thus I have seen a white Goldfinch with the usual red face, and everyone is familiar with the red comb of white fowls, though these almost always have yellow or white legs.

The distinction between Buff and Jonque or yellow cage birds is familiar to all fanciers. It is most conspicuous and best known in Canaries, in which the specimens called "yellow" by fanciers are only the bright buttercup coloured ones, while the more numerous pale yellow birds whose feathers are fringed with white, are called "buffs." The distinction is found in green varieties also, and Mr. G. E. Weston has pointed out that it occurs in British Finches generally. I have myself observed it in groups remote from these. Thus the grey-headed Porphyrio, a large blue Moorhen, common in India, is usually decidedly mealy in colouration, but a Jonque form of it occurs —if one may apply such a term to a blue bird—in which the mealy edgings of the feathers are absent, so that even the grey head which gives the species its name is not to be seen in such examples. The same thing occurs in the Black Swan, which is never quite black, but in some of which the grey edges to the feathers are much more noticeable than in others. Mealy birds have a fuller covering of feathers and are larger, and thus furnish an explanation of the characteristic aspect of the tropical forms of widely-ranging species. These are smaller and richer in colour than those found in temperate climates, the more fully-feathered though duller-coloured birds being no doubt better fitted to stand the cold, whilst it is the brighter but thinner-plumaged ones which are more at home in a hot climate. It is therefore quite easy to see how local races of this kind may arise. In some cases the two forms are found existing side by side; in others, circumstances favour the almost exclusive production of one or the other variety. The reddish and grey varieties found in Owls possibly are Jonque and mealy types.

A peculiar form of induced albinism, and one not to be passed over without notice, is the whitening of the dark legs of our Common British Finches in those specimens that have been in confinement for some time.* It is most remarkable that this should take place, because the legs of the green Canary, although the bird is bred and born in captivity, do not become white, neither do dark-legged Foreign Finches change the colour of these members in captivity.

Another familiar phenomenon is the disappearance of the carmine-red colour in the Crossbill, Linnet and Redpoll; the same thing occurs in the nearly related Rose Finch (*Carpodacus erythrinus*) and the nearly allied Purple Finch of North America (*C. purpureus*) which from carmine-red birds moult into brown ones with a touch of old gold in their plumage. A very little known species of the same group—the Iavas (*Hæmatospiza sipahi*)—moults into a bright yellow when in captivity.

Examples of melanism in birds are of this induced character in many familiar cases, such as in the Bullfinch and the Skylark, but, of course, poultry and pigeon keepers are familiar with birds which are black from birth, and black forms also occur among wild birds, especially in the case of some Hawks, Eagles, and Skua Gulls. Generally speaking, melanism is much rarer in birds than albinism. Thus, no one has ever succeeded in astonishing the world with a black Canary, nor are the domestic Turtle-dove, Goose or Peacock, ever black.

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* While this is so, it is equally true that with Goldfinches, &c., and also many Foreign birds, the legs and feet are considerably lighter during the breeding season than they are in the winter or off season. I have not noticed that length of period in captivity interferes with or accentuates this *seasonal* change.—Ed.]

Another very curious and important form of colour variation must be here alluded to; it is when a variety is produced which is neither black, white nor pallid, but one which shows a distinct alteration of pattern. A most familiar case of this is known as the Japan Peacock. In this bird, which is known to be produced as a sport from the ordinary Peacock, the wings are black, with purple and green edgings to the feathers, instead of the usual speckled colour. Nevertheless, these birds are born white, and only assume a dark plumage as they grow up. The hens of the variety always remain white, with cinnamon quills, and with a black tail and a greater or less amount of black splashings or peppering on the upper surface. These birds will breed true if paired together; if crossed with a common Peacock, intermediate forms are not produced, but the offsprings follow one parent or the other. Another case is in the now rare dark-throated form of the Gold Pheasant. In this bird the throat is sooty and the shoulders black, whereas the common Gold Pheasant has a buff throat and red shoulders. The centre tail feathers in the dark-throated form are also striped like the side ones; whilst in the Gold Pheasant the centre feathers differ from the rest by being spotted. The hens of this variety differ from the common Gold Pheasant by being much darker in the ground colour, and especially in having the sides of the face black; the chicks are also darker.

These forms have occured in domestic types, but some time ago a very remarkable example of the Little Owl appeared in the wild state in Italy. Normally, this Owl has very light eyes and the plumage mostly barred. In the new variety, which was found to be produced by parents of the ordinary kind, the plumage was more streaked and the eyes dark, and thus it had the appearance of an altogether distinct species, and might have given us some idea of how species arise, had the whole family not been exterminated by local ornithologists.

Only recently, it has been shown that the Yellow-rumped Weaver Finch (*Munia flaviprymna*) of Australia shows in some cases a decided tendency to turn into the Chestnut-breasted Finch (*M. castaneithorax*).

In addition to variation in colour we have also to consider structural variations, though these are very much rarer and less conspicuous. Fanciers are, however, familiar with the slender Yorkshires and the chubby Norwich type in Canaries and wild Finches, and this probably is very widely distributed. The shape of the beak is a structural point in which variation is familiar in some birds, especially in the case of the Goldfinch, in some individuals of which, a slightly arched form of bill occurs. This variation reaches its maximum in the Reed Bunting (*Emberiza schœniclus*) of which there is in some localities a race with a bill almost like that of a Bullfinch (*E. pyrrhuloides*), yet it seems to grade into the ordinary kind with the typical Bunting's bill. It is easy to see how variations of this kind may be of advantage to their possessors and thus how the form of the beak might become fixed under certain circumstances. I have seen the head of a Rook, with a prolonged and slender bill, very like a Chough's and there is a skull of a very long-billed Starling in the British Museum.

A very remarkable variation is that which sometimes occurs in the common Pigeon, which is at times partially web-footed. I have only once seen such a specimen myself, but of late years quite a number have been reported. The character is not, I believe, usually inherited, but should anyone desire it, I have no doubt that by selection a race of web-footed Pigeons could be perpetuated. It is easy to see how this variation might be useful. The Pigeon, although in no way a water-bird, will sometimes alight on water to drink when the element is not easy of access from the shore. The web-footed specimen ought to have a considerable advantage when starting again. It is possible that in this way water-fowl became web-footed. No doubt when their ancestors first took to swimming they had no web to their feet, as is still the case with the Rails.

This brings us to the subject of the propagation of variations. Attempts to do this often end in disappointment. Some years ago Mr. C. Swailes recorded that he had tried to produce light coloured Redpolls by pairing and breeding from white and cinnamon one, but could never get anything different from the normal form. I had a similiar experience myself in Calcutta. I once procured, at about the same time, a cinnamon cock Sparrow and a white hen; these I gave to a friend, who had an aviary, and the birds bred there, but the young one produced was a disappointment, as it was hardly lighter than an ordinary Common Sparrow.

White or light colours must be very easily bred in some cases. We have white varieties of all our poultry, and among Cage Birds, in the Java Sparrow, Bengalee and domestic Dove; while in addition to the yellow Canaries, of late years, yellow Budgerigars have been raised, of course, also, all the abnormalities which make many of our domestic birds so remarkable have been produced by breeding from specimens varying in colour or form.

It naturally occurs to everyone to ask what is the cause of appearance of variations, and so far the only answer to this is simply that we do not know. What causes variations is, in fact, now the chief problem of biological science. Fanciers had proved, long before the evolution theory was worked out by Darwin, that once variations have appeared, and these happen to be hereditary, form and colour can be modified to an enormous extent, but how these variations are produced in the first place is a real mystery of nature. There would, however, seem to be a close connection between some forms of variations and local constitutional disturbance. The fact that pale colours appear if a bird, through advancing age or indisposition is in low condition during the moult, is an indication of this, and in this connection it may be observed that light colour-varieties are often found to be weaker in constitution and softer in feather than the normal types. In may here be asked, how, in this case (supposing white forms to come, as appears to have always been the case, from coloured ancestors), white species of birds have arisen at all? But in answer to this, it may be pointed out that it is quite possible for an individual or species to be weak in one respect and strong in another. There is a case on record of a pied cock Blackbird which was observed in the wild state to get continually whiter, and he ultimately died from natural causes, so that his constitution could not have been good. At the same time he was the best fighter of the neighbourhood, so that if a hen Blackbird wanted a mate it had to be this bird or none at all. Thus if his colour had been hereditary, he would have been the founder of a pied strain. It is rather significant that the very colours indicative of constitutional disturbance, such as white and black in brown birds, and yellow in green birds, should also be those so often constituting an ornamental appearance in the males. It looks as if masculine beauty were acquired at some cost constitutionally, just as among ourselves the golden hair and rosy cheeks of the typical beauty do not necessary mean a good constitution, but rather indicate one less resistant to some unfavourable influence than the brunette type.

There is evidence that in some cases the white colouration is becoming common in nature. In some wild species of Herons which frequent the sea-shore, white varieties are quite common, and the fact may be here recalled that there are more species among the Herons constantly white than in any other family of birds. Here, then, the white varieties, whether by the force of heredity or by being more courageous or more cunning than their neighbours, have evidently managed to established themselves permanently. I may mention that some of the above variable Herons are white when young, and grey when adult, recalling the case of the non-permanent albinism above alluded to.

Of course there is also the possibility of white or pied birds being more attractive to the hens than those of the ordinary colour, but there is at present so little evidence that the preferences of hen birds have anything to do with the male's appearance* that we cannot invoke the aid of sexual selection in explanation of colour peculiarities with the same confidence as we can natural selection or the force of prepotent heredity.

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* Experience teaches me that with many species of birds (as also in genus *Homo*) the female is the choosing party, and that other things being equal she goes in for appearance, but vigour before anything else appears to actuate her choice, for if another male be present lacking the brilliance of the weaker bird but very vigorous, she chooses the vigorous bird.—Ed.]

The Orange-cheeked Waxbill.

(*Sporæginthus melopodus*).

By T. R. Hadley.

This quietly coloured yet beautiful little bird, often despised on account of its commonness and cheapness, is, in my opinion, the most vivacious and entertaining of all the Waxbills. I have had many individuals and have found their general characteristics to be daintiness of motion, great inquisitiveness, agility, and a capacity for enjoying life unexcelled, nay, unequalled by any other bird in captivity with which I am acquainted.

With a reputation for being somewhat delicate, I have found them easy to keep fit. It has been my custom to have several species of Waxbills at liberty in a living room. When first given their liberty other species usually flutter aimlessly round and invariably drop to the floor exhausted and in a very nervous condition. The Orange-cheeks, however, before flying off invariably reconnoitre, and then, with a sharp *ih! ih!* fly to the highest picture frame, from which point of vantage they immediately set off to explore the whole room. During their travels, which are always made together, should one bird miss the other, the call immediately changes from the usual *ih! ih!* to *ti ti tee—ti ti tee;* the one which calls retains a stationary position, leaving the other to find his whereabouts, which does not take long. On again meeting they make a great fuss and caress each other.

It is extremely amusing to see how quickly other species get accustomed to a room if there are Orange-cheeks about; yet if left to themselves some time elapses before they feel at home.

It is a charming sight to see them all nestling together in a row: Orange-cheeks, Avadavats, Cordon Bleu and Fire Finches (each pair keeping together) in the windows. If, however, strangers stop to look at them the warning signal is given, and ten pairs of wings carry their owners to a place secure from the gaze of inquisitive strangers. The Orange-cheeks will never permit strangers to closely examine them, although the other species when alone will tolerate such familiarity.

Their habitation is a large box cage in one corner of the room, but they seldom use it in the day time, preferring the various picture frames, which I preserve from damage by having a thin board fixed at the back to catch the bird's voidings. The loss of one or two birds through slipping behind led me to fix them, so that they now serve a two-fold purpose. I have a large box, about 15in. by 24in. on one side of the room, in which I place the seed, and give the birds their bath; they are extremely fond of bathing, usually doing so twice daily whatever the season.

The curiosity of the Orange-cheek is unbounded. If anything fresh is placed in the room they immediately notice it, and with many warning cries hover round until it has been thoroughly examined, and then perch on it for closer inspection. A fresh plant is a treat for them, they spend much of their time in the flower pots. I have often seen them go down a flower stem to drink the water from the vessel, and occasionally to try them, have placed their box under the table (plenty of seed always being in their cage); it is not long, however, before they find out its new position.

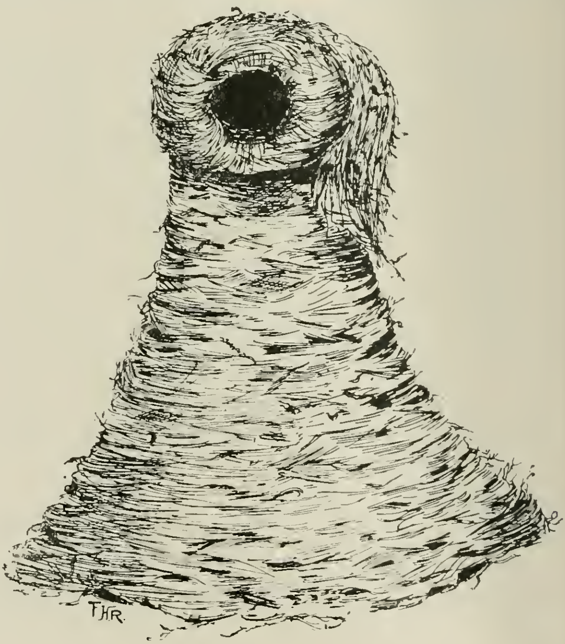
When fresh birds arrive I often unpack them before the Waxbills. Immediately the Orange-cheeks come down, hover in front of the cages and inspect the inmates and often endeavour to get in with them, making a great commotion the while.

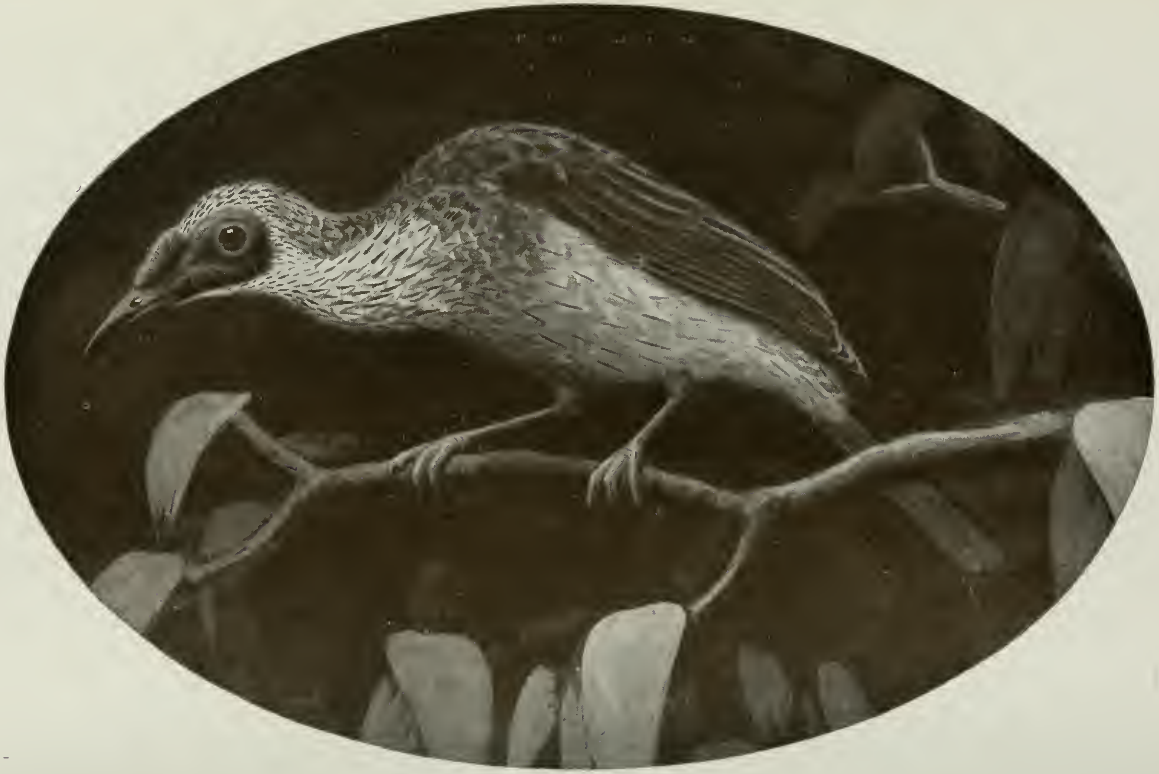
On occasions they can be terrible little bullies with fresh birds. I have seen one repeatedly put a cock Zebra Finch to flight, who himself had not been afraid to tackle a Cockatiel for approaching his nest; the Orange-cheek would dart at him and make the feathers fly: there was never any chance for retaliation, for the little fellow was here, there, and everywhere until he saw his opportunity for dealing another blow.

In spite of the experience of other bird-keepers, I have not found them to take to ants' eggs, though on one occasion such an indulgence apparently saved the life of a pair whose condition appeared to be hopeless.

Occasionally one or a pair escapes, and having no garden we have not the usual facilities for recapture; however it is by no means impossible, yet, on a hot summer's day, after seeing the dainty gems flitting about in the sunlight from plant to plant and calling to each other and their would-be captor in an indescribably cheeky fashion, one is loth to bring them in. A cage, however, placed outside in a neighbour's garden soon results in their capture as they soon come to feed, and with a little alertness the door can be closed upon them. Should one only escape, the other bird soon attracts it back to its cage. In spite of many escapes and labouring under exceptional disadvantages with regard to environment, I have never lost an Orange-cheek, they are *too knowing.* I can safely say that no other bird I have kept so fully knows the ways of a place, or appears to have the homing instinct so fully developed.

I once made an endeavour to breed with them in a cage 24in. by 16in. by 18in.; in about a fortnight the cock bird ignoring natural branches and a "Hartz" cage commenced to weave a tower from the bottom of the cage; he used aloe fibre, hay, and a little hair. It was wide at the bottom, gradually narrowing to the top of the cage, 18in. in height, finishing off with a domed nesting place. The whole structure was beautifully woven from side to side, and was similar to rough figure herewith. The hen helped but little, but was constantly examining his work, on each occasion Mr. Orange-cheek would sing to her, spreading his tail the while and afterwards endeavouring to entice her to the nest. He spent much of his time hopping from





THE SILVERY-CROWNED FRIAR BIRD.

Philemon argenticeps.

Drawn from life by H. Goodchild from living specimens belonging to W. T. Page, Esq.

bottom to top, entering, calling to her, and then making little endearing noises. However, by an accident in cleaning, the nest was knocked down and damaged, and so ended that attempt. Before long he built a similar nest, and soon the hen laid but looked very sick; the second day she laid a soft shelled egg and died. After much calling for her I gave him a piece of looking glass, and he spent the greater part of his time against it.

I do not know if it has been generally noticed, but I have found that invariably the cock Orange-cheek has a decidedly yellowish tinge at the vent; the hen being pale grey.

Some Recent Acquisitions.

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., M.B.N.H.S

Silvery-crowned Friar Birds (*Philemon argenticeps*): Last April Messrs. Payne and Wallace imported of the Australian Honey-eaters four of this species and one or more Dusky Mynah or Obscure Honey-eater. Of these, the four Friar Birds and a Dusky Mynah have come into my possession. These specimens I believe to be not merely the first imported, but the only living specimens in Europe. The Friar Birds are at present at the Zoo—one pair presented and one pair on deposit—where they appear to be doing well; they are already much improved in appearance and appear to be thriving on their diet of milk sop, banana, soft food and mealworms. This species is one of the least beautiful of the five species enumerated by Gould in his "Birds of Australia," viz., The Common, Helmeted, Silvery-crowned, Yellow-throated, and Sordid; all of which he places in the genus *Tropidorhynchus*.

> "For the first knowledge of this species of *Tropidorhynchus*, science is indebted to the late
> "Mr. Bynoe, Surgeon of H.M. Surveying ship, "Beagle," who, on my visiting Sydney,
> "placed his specimens at my disposal; after my return other examples were sent to me
> "by Sir George Grey. Bynoe's specimens were all obtained during the survey of the
> "north-west coast, a portion of Australia, the natural productions of which are but
> "little known; and Sir George Grey's during his expedition into the interior, from the
> "same coast............Of its habits and economy nothing is known; but as it is very nearly
> "allied to the Common Friar Bird (*T. corniculatus*), we may reasonably conclude that
> "they are very similar. Description: Crown of the head silvery-grey; the remainder of
> "the head naked, and of a blackish brown; throat and all the under surface white;
> "back, wing, and tail brown; bill and feet blackish brown. Total length 10½ inches;
> "bill 1⅜: wing 5⅛; tail 4½; tarsi 1⅛ (*Gould's Birds of Australia*, Vol. I.)."

I have not yet had the birds under observation sufficiently to form very conclusive opinions as to their demeanour, call notes, and general habits; but after reading Gould's account of the Common Friar Bird, than which he states there are few birds more familiarly known in N.S. Wales, I am already convinced that the habits and economy of the Silvery-crowned and Common Friar Birds must be very similar. Gould dubs them a remarkable genus, and I am assured that all who get an opportunity of viewing these birds in the Western Aviary at the Zoo will agree with him; and I am certainly looking forward to studying the pair I have reserved for myself in one of my bird-room enclosures.

Vernacular names: Its bare head and neck have secured for the genus the names of 'Friar Bird,' 'Monk,' 'Leather Head,' while yet another very appropriate one suggests itself to me, viz., Vulture-headed Honey-eater.

As regards description, that given by Gould is quite accurate, save that I should describe the throat and under surface as hoary and not white, but then my specimens may not yet be fully mature.

In a state of nature they frequent the tops of very lofty trees, their flight is undulating and powerful; they are very agile among the branches and can assume almost any position with ease.

"Its food consists of the pollen of the *Eucalypti*, insects, and wild figs and berries."
"(*Gould's Birds of Australia*, Vol. I.)"

In the aviary, both its undulating and powerful flight, its clinging attitudes are both Tit- and Parrot-like strike one at once; no position seems to come amiss to it, whether on the upper or underside of perch or branch or clinging with one or both feet.

The nest of the Silvery-crowned does not yet appear to have been described or I have overlooked it, but that of the Common Friar Gould describes as rudely constructed, cup-shaped and of large size; composed outwardly of string bark and wool, to which succeeds a layer of fine twigs lined with grasses and fibrous roots, the whole being suspended to the horizontal branch of an apple- (*Angophora*) or gum-tree without the least regard to secrecy, frequently within a few feet of the ground. Eggs, usually three in number and of a pale salmon-colour with minute darker spots. Here, again, one appears to be fairly safe in assuming that the nest and eggs, etc., of the Silvery-crowned would be similar.

In a state of nature Gould states they are almost gregarious, the nests are so numerous and in such close proximity, though in the breeding season they become very animated and fierce, readily attacking Crows, Hawks and Magpies that may venture near the nests. In the aviary the Silvery-crowned already gives indications that the two pairs will soon have to be separated, and I have no hesitation in saying that it would not be possible to keep two adult pairs in the same enclosure in captivity.

Short as my experience has been with the Australian Honey-eaters it is my strong opinion that nearly all species would thrive on milk sop, soft food, soft ripe fruit and live insects, such as mealworms, beetles, cockroaches, grasshoppers, etc. Their cage or enclosure should be a roomy one.

Mr. Goodchild's fine drawing is most accurate and life-like and renders unnecessary the lengthening out of these already too verbose notes.

At present it is too early to speak of sexual distinctions, but those I take to be females are certainly a little smaller and the feathers on the crown somewhat restricted in area.

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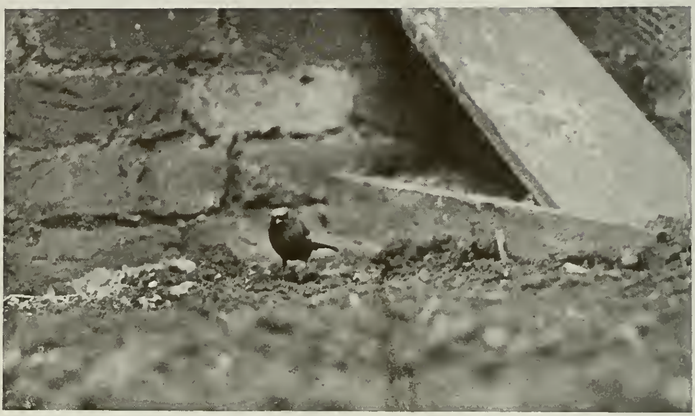
THE SOMBRE HONEY-EATER (*Manorhina* [*Myzanthia*, Gould], *obscura*) *:* Gould states that this species inhabits Swan River and the S.W. portion of Australia generally, where it beautifully represents the Garrulous Honey-eater of N.S. Wales. He quotes Gilbert as follows:—

> "It inhabits every variety of wooded situation, in all parts of the colony, and is generally "met with in small families In flying the wings move very rapidly, but the bird does "not make progress in proportion to the apparent exertion; at times when passing "from tree to tree its flight is graceful in the extreme. The stomach is small but "tolerably muscular, and the food, which consists of coleopterous and other insects, "seeds and berries, is procured both on the ground and among the branches. The nest "is built on an upright fork of the topmost branches of the smaller gum-trees, and is "formed of small dried sticks lined with soft grasses and feathers. The eggs are of a "rich orange-buff, obscurely spotted and blotched with a deeper tint, particularly at the "larger end. The sexes offer but little difference in colour, but the female is somewhat "smaller in all her admeasurements."

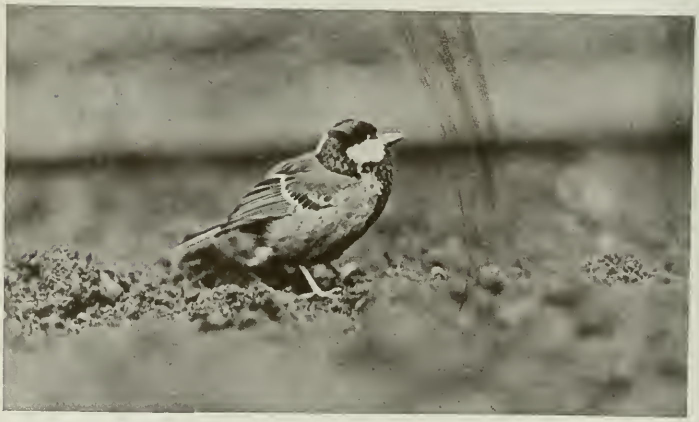
This is really a handsome species, and certainly does not deserve such a misnomer as "obscure." Messrs. Payne and

Wallace imported it under the name of Dusky Mynah and from its utterance, chattering, laughing-like notes, as well as bell-like calls and petulant-like drawn out notes, one can readily understand this appellation. When it first came into my possession I put it into an enclosure 4½ × 2¼ × 4½ feet high, with a very fine Shâma, which has been with me about three years; for a few days the Shâma ruled the roost, but this was only temporary, for on my return from business one evening, after they had been about a week together, I found, to my great regret, the Shâma partially disabled and, though it is now all right again, it is very evident I only rescued it just in time. Now the Dusky or Obscure Honey-eater enjoys an enclosure 3 × 4 × 6 feet high to itself (young ♂ I think), and is quite happy, contented, and improving in appearance daily. Its flight and agility among the branches is graceful beyond description, and it is also of fine contour and of a reachy carriage. You have only to come within its range of vision for it to call out, presumably for mealworms, and its petulant protests are both loud and strong if you do not satisfy its wants. It is closely allied to the Bell Bird (*Manorhina melanophrys*), but its deepest bell-like call is not anything like so sonorous as that of the Bell Bird.

DESCRIPTION: My bird is evidently immature as yet, and the following description may have to be slightly altered at a later date. The upper surface is mostly dusky-grey, with the centres of most of the feathers brownish, but the combination of the colours is a very soft one, and the consequent variegation is not striking; rump and upper tail-coverts whitish-grey, wings and tail olive-brown, with the external bases of some of the flights greenish, and tips of tail feathers whitish; forehead, yellowish-olive; lores, line below the eye, and ear-coverts blackish; top and sides of head, throat, and entire under-surface grey, each feather being edged with silvery-grey, imparting a beautiful and soft crescentic-undulated appearance to these parts; ventral region whitish; the bill which is long, curved and very wide at the base, is bright yellow: this is also the colour of the bare skin round the eye and bare patch on each side of the throat; legs and feet dull orange. Total length about 9½ inches, tail about 4 inches.



PLUMBEOUS REDSTART.
Ruticilla fuliginosa.



Photos by E. O. B. Page.

GREEN-BACKED TIT.
Parus monticolus.

DIET: Gould makes no mention of pollen or nectar as a portion of its dietary, but there can be little doubt that it partakes of both, its long narrow tongue with the brush-like tip sufficiently indicates this. In my aviary it eats heartily of milk sop, less so of soft food and ripe fruit, but it will take as many live insects (principally mealworms with me) as you choose to give it; bathes freely but drinks very little water. On the above diet it has improved immensely since coming into my possession.

This specimen is a most interesting bird, with much character, but anything further than the foregoing general remarks I must leave for later notice, when I have had a more lengthy acquaintance with it.

* * *

THE GREEN-BACKED TIT (*Parus monticolus*). A most entrancing little fellow which has made but a short stay with me, "shufffling off" I fear, owing to an insufficiency of live food. In a roomy cage I do not anticipate there would have been any difficulty in keeping him for some time, but among the many insectivorous species my aviary contains he stood no chance, not that he lacked boldness or courage; while they lasted he secured one readily enough, but once secured did not kill and swallow it as most of his fellow captives did, but got it in his claw and commencing at one end, took a small piece at a time till the whole was eaten, so that he rarely secured more than two. He was a merry little fellow flying about you and perching on head, shoulders or arm, whenever you entered the aviary; his every attitude and characteristic was tit-like and full of interest. He differed from his English cousins in one point, that is so far as I can judge from so limited an acquaintance, in being amiably disposed to other birds he came in contact with, and Captain Perreau's experience is similar to my own in this respect. Fortunately I secured several photos before his untimely decease, one of which is reproduced here—this makes a lengthy description unnecessary. It will be seen that it resembles our English Great Tit, in marking and the same is true as to its colouration, the main points of difference being the white patch on the nape, green back and more shapely defined wing markings. I have regretted since that I did not send this bird to the Zoo till I had an enclosure available for it; given individual treatment and proper exercise I am convinced it would prove an ideal cage pet and not a fragile one either. I shall certainly avail myself (unfortunately not likely to be soon) of the first opportunity to replace him.

*   *   *

THE WATER-ROBIN (*Ruticilla fuliginosa*): also known as the Water and Plumbeous Redstart. The body colouring is plumbeous or slaty- or dusky-blue, and the tail a rich rufous; the front of the head is a little lighter in colour than the rest of the body as also are the shoulders, but only slightly so; bill, legs and feet blackish. My bird is a male but I have not yet heard him utter a note. At first I kept him in an enclosure in the bird room, but a week later I turned him into my general out-door enclosure; here he has done well, though he does not secure quite so many live insects as I would like, nevertheless, he is very fit, and subsists almost entirely on the insectile mixture, mealworms, and such gnats, flies, etc. (fairly numerous) as it catches. So adept a hunter of small game is he, that a midge scarcely discernable to the naked eye stands but a poor chance of escape once it comes within the range of his vision. His flight is absolutely noiseless, of lightning-like rapidity, and graceful in the extreme. In contour and motion it is a true Redstart. His tail is a fine example of perpetual motion, not only jerked up and down (all the same the movement is not a jerky one), but the feathers are also worked or opened out laterally fan-wise, from which it has received the cognomen Scissors-tail since it came into my possession. My regret is that I have not secured a pair, but Capt. Perreau only succeeded in getting ♂'s over. The Blue and White Capped Redstarts (brightly coloured species) have passed into the possession of our esteemed member Mr. J. H. Harrison. It is evidently a shy and retiring species, as it keeps under the roofed-in portion of the aviary most of the time; at the same time it is more confiding than nervous, and readily hops about you within a couple of feet, flirting his perpetually moving caudal appendage about and viewing you, apparently quite unconcernedly with his large lustrous eyes; gratefully accepting any living insect you may throw him. I am of the opinion he also takes a few small seeds from the way I see him picking about among them. but this needs confirmation. If kept in a cage it should not be smaller than 30 × 18 × 24 inches high, and should be permitted a daily fly round the room. I certainly recommend any of the Indian Redstarts that should be imported as interesting and beautiful cage or aviary pets. The shelter formed by the lean-to board (see photo) provided for Quails is much used as a retiring place by this bird during the daytime.

I must reserve further reference to other uncommon species, which are recent occupants of my aviaries, viz., Black-headed, Black-crested, and Yellow-breasted Buntings ; Jerdon's Accentor, Pink-browed Rosefinch, Black-headed Sibias, Rosy Pastors, Grey-winged Ouzels, Painted Finches and Red-collared Lorikeets, of all of which I have secured true pairs, till some future issue. I must close with an apology for the undue length of these notes which have been written by request.

(*To be continued*).

Reviews and Notices of New Books.

THE WORLD'S BIRDS. A simple and popular classification of the Birds of the World. By FRANK FINN, B.A., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U., etc. Over fifty illustrations from photographs (mostly from living birds) and numerous outline figures in the text. Price 5/-. Published by HUTCHINSON & CO., Paternoster Row, London.

The prolific and able pen of our esteemed member, Mr. Finn, has produced many practical and useful works on birds, but this his latest production should prove even more so, than any of his recent works. It is a veritable *multum in parvo*, a text book that should be on every bird lover's book shelf—for its covering capacity, ease of reference, and the conciseness and originality of the planning of the work. it certainly is unrivalled by any other similar work. The introduction is a most able one, in fact a work in itself, couched in lucid and popular language and is a valuable fund of information for the tyro as well as for the more experienced student of bird life. The following quotations will exemplify this.

> "The Neotropical region consists of South America and the countries north of it up "to Mexico. This, also, is a very distinct region containing many peculiar forms—Rheas, "Tinamous, Trumpeters, Carassows, Jacamers, Puff-birds, Motmots, Toucans, and sub-"groups of the Passerine family too numerous to mention here, besides most of the "Tanagers, Troupials and Humming Birds, though some of these penetrate into "North America."

It would make this review too lengthy to quote sufficient to give a reasonable idea of the scope of the information it imparts. The introduction runs through and defines the various parts of bird anatomy and the functions of the principle organs—including notes on the senses of birds—battles of birds—nesting arrangements—dimorphism—distribution—ornithological regions—promiscuous collecting condemned—study of living birds—guides to classification.

The illustrations include figures of such uncommon species as Apteryx, Bird-of-Paradise, Cariama, Crocodile Bird, Finfoot, Frogmouth, Hornbills, Humming Birds, Kiskadee, Porphyrio, Pratincole, Puff-bird, Road-runner, Toucanet, Tropic Bird, White-headed Stork, etc.

By the courtesy of the publishers we reproduce the figure of Great-billed Touracou. The following extract will indicate the general character of the work.

TOURACOUS (*Musophagidæ*).

Diagnosis.—Medium sized tree-birds, with short stout bill, and outer toe united by a short basal web to middle one.

Size.—From a pheasant's to a jay's; mostly the latter.

Form.—*Bill* short, stout, upper profile curved, corner of mouth below eye; *feet* with rather short shanks, and four toes, the first or hinder, smallest, the fourth also usually turned back, though united by a web at base to the middle one—thus the toes are generally in pairs, though sometimes, and always in death, the outer toe comes forward. *Head* small and always crested; *neck* rather long. *Wings* short and rounded; *tail* long and rounded.

Plumage and Colouration.—Feathers rather hairy in texture, generally beautifully coloured with green and purple, sometimes grey. Most of the light-coloured forms have carmine primary quills concealed in repose. No sexual difference or seasonal change; the young much resemble the adults.

Young.—Not very active, remaining in the nest and fed by parents, clad in dark-coloured down without markings. They crawl about by aid of their wings.

Eggs.—Three, greenish or bluish-white.

Incubation.—Three weeks.

Nest.—A platform of twigs in a tree or bush.

Food.—Fruit and small animals, such as insects and worms.

Gait.—They keep mostly to the trees, springing from one bough to another very lightly, and running along the boughs like pheasants on the ground. When they do visit the ground they run there very rapidly also.

Flight.—Very light and graceful, but probably not enduring. The feet are tucked up in front when in flight and the neck extended.

Note.—Loud and not much modulated.

Economic Qualities.—They are not beneficial where fruit is grown, but do not seem to be very harmful; they are extremely ornamental.

Disposition and Habits.—They seem to be sociable and playful, sometimes spiteful to other birds. They spring and strike with their feet when fighting.

Captivity.—They do well when confined, and one species (*Turacus macrorhynchus*) has been bred successfully in England.

Distribution and Important Species.—There are about three dozen species, found in Africa south of the Sahara, in forest and wooded plains. The best known species is perhaps the plainest, the Grey Touracou or Quay-bird (*Schizorhis concolor*), detested by sportsmen for its habits of alarming game. Touracous are called Loories at the Cape."

The above will indicate the scope of this useful *vade mecum* to all interested in bird life—it should command a large and ready sale and we cordially recommend it to our readers.

THE BIRDS OF HAMPSHIRE AND THE ISLE OF WIGHT. By J. E. KELSALL, M.A., M.B.O.U., and PHILIP W. MUNN, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U. Published by WITHERBY & Co., 326, High Holborn, W.C., 15/- net.

A notice of this useful and well got up work reaches us; it contains 16 full page plates from photos from life by Smith Whiting and drawings by G. E. Lodge, also a large scale coloured map. The principal features are: The distribution and status in the county of each species. Local bird-names and observations of former writers are carefully recorded. A very necessary addition to the library of those interested in the local distribution of our avifauna.

Editorial.

NESTING NOTES. So far but few of these have come to hand. Mr. R. Suggitt has nests of Yellow Sparrows (*P. luteus*) and Red-headed Finches (*Amadina erythrocephala*) with the young eight and ten days' old respectively. Mr. Suggitt appears to be very successful with *P. luteus*, breeding them almost as freely as others do Budgerigars.

As regards my own aviary the only young yet out of nest are Diamond Doves; but Jacarini Finches and Tanagers have nests almost complete, whether these two will go beyond this stage is very much open to conjecture. A ♂ House Sparrow has paired with a ♀ hybrid *P. montana* × *P. luteus*, they have built and are incubating a clutch of eggs, but as to whether they will prove fertile is a matter of much interest. Cutthroats and Red-headed Finches have again cross-mated and are incubating as also are the cross paired Bronze and Magpie Mannikins. Zebra Finches and such like are very busy nesting, but I fear the ultimate outcome will be but small, as the moderate dimensions of my aviaries compel me to keep their occupants too numerous and varied for much successful breeding.

BIRD LIFE OF SUBURBAN LONDON. An unknown correspondent sends the following cutting from the *Hackney and Stoke Newington Recorder*, of 15th ult.

RURAL CLAPTON.

To the Editor of the Recorder.

DEAR SIR,—Lovers of bird life may be interested to know that blackbirds and thrushes are quite familiar visitants of the gardens which run from the houses on Clapton Common to Springfield Park. This spring a pair of blackbirds built their nest in an ivy-covered arch in my garden, and duly hatched their young. The fact is somewhat remarkable, as this sweet warbler is rather a shy bird, and my gardener passed under the arch constantly without causing the hen bird to forsake its nest. Thrushes also nested in an old fruit tree. No doubt the close proximity of Springfield Park accounts for the number of birds to be seen in our gardens.

Yours faithfully,

Oriel Lodge, Clapton Common.

F. BOURNE NEWTON.

The increase of bird life in London and its suburbs is a most gratifying feature. In my garden at Shepherds Bush, Cole, Great and Blue Tits, Blackbird, Starling, Thrush, Accentor and Robin are always with us, while the list of birds which pass over and are casual visitors is quite a large one and includes Linnet, Lesser Redpoll (one of these was seen on top of my aviary on 10th ult.), Willow-Wren, Garden Warbler, Chiff-Chaff, Twites, Goldfinch, Greenfinch, Chaffinch, the two latter are fairly regular visitors all the year round. The quiet of morning and evening is pleasantly broken by the cawing of Rooks passing overhead, while the Blackbird, Thrush and Robin fill the air with melody. Quite a lengthy list of migrants visit us each autumn, while in my near vicinity, in gardens providing better cover than mine, Wrens, Chiff-Chaff, Chaffinch, Robin, Blackbird, Thrush and Starling nest regularly and successfully rear their young. Up to about three years ago I had the joy of hearing the Lark singing at liberty while wandering in the garden in the early mornings; bricks and mortar have now driven him farther afield. If some restriction could be placed upon cats and *Passer domesticus* the list of visiting and nesting birds would probably be a more lengthy one. While on the subject of suburban birds it may be of interest to note that albinism or semi-albinism has been specially prevalent the last two seasons. In a neighbouring district, about a mile away, I have seen fully a dozen such this year, evidently birds which I had observed the previous year and which have escaped the trapper and survived the hardships of winter, but not one of them were pure white, several of them were only fouled by a few feathers on the head and wings; while one was in normal plumage except for a longitudinal streak running through the centre of the crown and well down the nape. Records of such observations scattered all over the country are endless, and either a greater interest is being taken in our native Avifauna or albinism is becoming much more prevalent of late years.

LONG-TAILED GRASSFINCHES BREEDING IN CAGE.

A correspondent informs me that last year he succeeded in successfully rearing four of this handsome species in a cage 2½ft. by 1ft. by 1½ft. high. Unfortunately I am not able at present to give details, but the bare fact is of much interest as *Poephila* have so far given but little inclination of nesting save in roomy aviaries. This should encourage those, whose environment, does not permit of outdoor aviaries to persevere in the attempt to breed Foreigners in cages. If roomy cages are provided, with one end at any rate partially screened as the nesting quarters, and the cage kept where its occupants will get plenty of fresh air without draught, there should be reasonable prospects of successfully breeding many species thus. The communication above referred to left the impression that the young were reared on seed and green food alone.

MR. BRIDGWATER'S AVIARY. The accompanying photo conveys but a poor impression of a really well arranged and handsome structure, which unfortunately is largely wasted on Canaries. In response to my request for details I gather the inner compartment is 12ft. by 9ft. by 9ft. high and forms part of an outhouse which can be artifically heated during very severe weather. The outer enclosure is 10ft. by 6½ft. by 9ft. high, is of a very pleasing design, well arranged as to growing plants, etc., the wall dividing it from the inner enclosure is creeper covered, and the whole aviary should be an ideal one for Waxbills, Grassfinches and many species of Tanagers. It was started under the discouraging conditions of last year's awful weather, losses were numerous and successes but few. Now with the exception of a few Cutthroats it is largely given up to Canaries. I certainly hope that in the near future, the feathered gems of Foreign climes will disport themselves within its precincts. To the Foreign bird lover it seems little short of waste to give up so admirably an arranged aviary to Canaries. With Foreign bird keeping and breeding there are many disappointments, but I find such successes as come my way, coupled with the interesting demeanour, courting displays and nesting arrangements more than compensate for the alternating experiences of the heights of expectations and hope, and the valley of despondency. Such an aviary would provide, in view of its furnishings with which I am fully acquainted, for from thirty to forty pairs of Waxbills and small foreign finches.

MR. BRIDGEWATER'S AVIARY.

THE GOLDEN HANGNEST (*Icterus xanthornis*). In my notes on this species in May issue, by a printer's error the legs are described as black, my MSS reads blackish, and I failed to note the error when reading the proofs. Our esteemed member, Mr. Harper who is acquainted with the species in its native haunts assures me that the legs and feet of the adult bird are bluish or leaden-grey. The specimen I possessed for a time was immature and the legs were *blackish*, while the skins of adult birds I had by me when writing the notes, were almost black. Therefore I must correct the description given as follows:

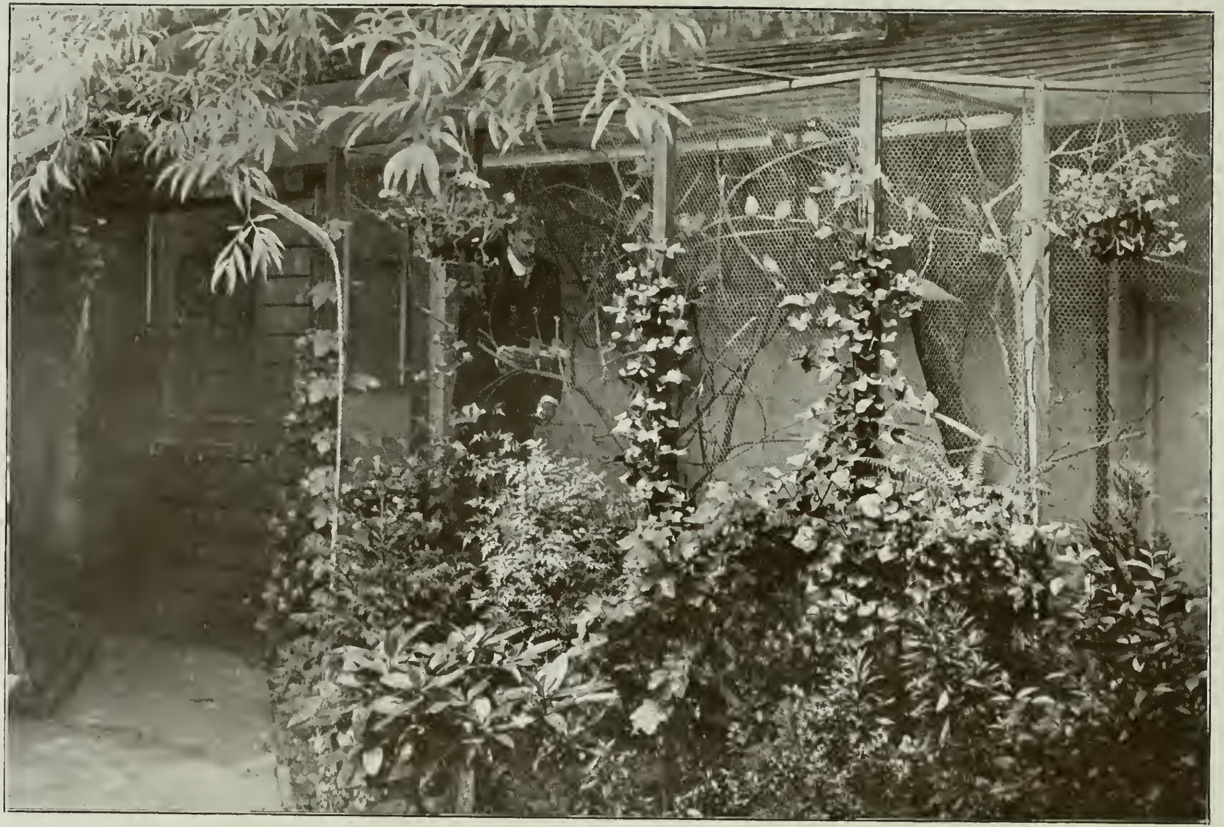
Legs and feet (immature) blackish;
,, ,, (adult) bluish or leaden-grey.

MR. MILLSUM'S COLLECTION OF LIVING BIRDS. On May 2nd, when visiting Bath, I spent Saturday evening and Sunday at Swindon, and had the opportunity of viewing Mr. Millsum's really fine collection, including several very rare species, and also a long birdy chat with an ardent aviculturist and exhibitor. Our esteemed member's aviary building proclivities are somewhat restrained owing to the limitations of business premises, but he certainly has made the most of his opportunities, and possesses several well arranged aviaries, the largest of which is of the well-known type of garden aviary (see photos), consisting of open and covered flight and shelter shed. It is well furnished with twigy branches and growing Larch and Spruce Trees, nest boxes of various types, including the useful straw hat. It contained true pairs of Ruddy-shouldered Troupials, Silky Cowbirds, Saffron Finches, Black Tanagers and Golden Pheasants; also odd males—Scarlet Tanager, Virginian and Grey Cardinals, and a Tanager, species unknown, probably either a female Maroon or immature male, either the Maroon or Scarlet. The Ruddy-shouldered Troupials hatched out and all but reared young to maturity last season (vide Vol. VI.), they have again started building and it is hoped that complete success may be attained on this occasion.

Two other small out-door enclosures contained exquisite pairs of Red Rosellas and White-eared Conures.

There is also a well-lighted enclosed aviary, to which an outdoor flight is attached, so that the occupants of the two large fixed flight cages can be let out alternately for fresh air and exercise. One of these cages was occupied by seven Brazilian Hangnests, very rich in colour but still a little rough in plumage; the other cage contained four very fine Superb Tanagers and one Festive, all looking very fit, but the plumage of the rare *Calliste festiva* still showed the effects of importation. Here also at one end a good sized flight is arranged, containing the following, all looking very fit and tightly feathered: True pairs of Stanley and Many-coloured Parrakeets, and males of Laughing Thrush and Guiana Lovebird.

Indoors: On a small landing was a large aviary-cage (really a small aviary) constructed of glass, wood and wire, and so arranged that though it



ONE OF MR. MILLSUM'S AVIARIES.

stood in front of a window, the birds enjoyed immunity from draught. It contained a lovely pair of Magpie Tanagers (*C. leveriana*), Bluish, 2 Palms, Crimson-crowned and the lovely and extremely rare *Calliste cayana*. This latter species was in my possession till quite recently. It is a lovely species and I believe the only living specimen at present in the United Kingdom, if not in Europe. I will not stay to describe it here, as Mr. Goodchild has prepared an exquisite coloured drawing of the bird and it will be figured in a near issue of *Bird Notes*.

In one of the sitting-rooms was a very fine specimen of the Hawk-headed Caique, one of two imported by our esteemed member, Mr. E. W. Harper, last year.

In an upper-room, devoted entirely to birds, were: A lovely pair of Purple-cap Lories, in exquisite condition and very intent on housekeeping, though so far most of the eggs have been broken, not surprising as they are kept in a cage of only moderate proportions. These birds completed their first clutch on April 3rd, second on May 4th, and again another clutch by May 31st. It is certainly to be hoped that this time complete success may attend their efforts.

Swainson's Lorikeets. One of the finest pairs I have seen, also showing indications of nesting.

Blue-crowned Hanging Parrots. An exquisite pair of this lovely species, which were recently brought over by our esteemed member, Capt. Perreau.

Pintailed Nonpariels. A fine pair of this none too easily kept, but lovely species.

Last but not least a good specimen, very fit, but still a little rough in feather of the extremely rare Black-winged Lory. This also I believe to be the only living specimen at present in this country.

Mr. Millsum is to be congratulated on a very fine series of well conditioned birds, their condition speaking for his skill in aviculture and his thoughtful care of his avian pets. The foregoing notes are extremely brief, and several of the rarer species call for a detailed description to do them justice, but this lack will be supplied in later issues in separate accounts of the rare species.

The dietary of the insectivorous and frugivorous species has consisted of soft food (*vide* Vol. VI.), milk sop, boiled rice, ripe fruit in variety, and live insects. The Finches, etc., have had seed in addition, and that all have thriven well, their very fit condition amply testifies.

Since my visit, two large rooms have been rented entirely for the birds, and fitted up with large flight cage, flights, also steadying cages to prepare them for the show bench, so that some of the birds are even more happily housed than when I saw them.

We shall hope to have accounts of some of the species noted herein from Mr. Millsum's pen during the course of the current volume.

THE YELLOW WARBLER (*Dendroica aestiva*). When examining the contents of the Small Bird's House, during a recent visit to the Zoo, I came across a pair of this lovely species, of which I had not previously seen living specimens. They were in perfect condition, quite tame, and give promise of doing well; their contour, dantiness and lovely plumage are simply beyond description. As to size they are but little if any larger than our Willow Wren. Their plumage is brilliant yellow, more or less striated with brownish-red, lightly washed with olivaceous on the upper surface; bill lead colour; the colour of the legs and feet I failed to note. They were evidently a true pair, and the one I took to be the female, had the plumage of not quite so intense a hue, and the striations were less distinct and of not so ruddy a hue, as those of the other bird, which was undoubtedly a male. Their movements were very tit-like, and demeanour confiding and fearless. If they were only procurable they would make delightful pets in a roomy cage in a sunny bird-room, but alas! as with many other beautiful American species they can only be admired from plates and the precincts of Zoological Gardens. However, there is some hope that more specimens may ultimately be imported as their range is not merely restricted to the United States from the Atlantic to the Pacific, but they extend southward to Guatemala and West Indies.

THE CIRL BUNTING BREEDING IN CAPTIVITY. Just on going to press I learn that our esteemed member, Mr. W. E. Teschemaker has succeeded in rearing three young birds to maturity. This being the first time they have been reared in captivity he will be entitled to receive the Club's Certificate, unless any member knows of a previous occurrence, if so, will they please send particulars to the *Hon. Editorial Sec.*

HAND REARING SNIPE FROM THE EGG. After many failures, our esteemed member, Mr. Hugh Wormald has succeeded in rearing this species by hand from the egg. The chick, I believe, was hatched in an incubator, it is now a month old and almost able to fly. A detailed account of his success would be of general interest and I hope Mr. Wormald will kindly supply same.

THE PROTECTION OF FOREIGN BIRDS. I am assured that all members will rejoice that Lord Avebury's Bill to Prohibit the Importation of Plumage has passed its second reading in the House of Lords, and one can only hope that it will speedily become law and be rigorously enforced. For what with callous commercialism and the callous wearers of plumage adorned millinery, etc., many beautiful species would soon become extinct. Exceptions have been made in favour of the Ostrich, Eider duck and edible wild birds. Our native avifauna, especially such as Kingfishers, etc. are in special need of additional protection, for with the supply cut off from abroad, such species will be in special danger.

Correspondence.

THE ILLUSTRATION FUND.

SIR,—I see that our Editor's recent appeal has not as yet produced an expression of opinion from our members, so perhaps I may be permitted to say a few words with regard to this matter, in the hope that a discussion will result.

I am sure that it must be a great cause of satisfaction to all of us to see the wonderful strides that our Magazine has made under Mr. Page's able editorship. It is certainly no exaggeration to say that the Magazine is now second to none of its class, whereas only a few years since its scope was very limited. This success is the more remarkable when we consider what difficulties our Editor has had to overcome. However able a man may be, he requires time to establish himself in the Editorial chair and to put matters into working order, yet hardly had our Editor gathered up the reins of office when he had to face certain defections of some of our original members.

Yet, in spite of these resignations and in spite of lack of support in the matter of literary contributions, the Magazine has continued to increase in interest and usefulness month by month.

Personally I think the outlook quite a hopeful one. In the first place we have the very satisfactory increase in membership. Secondly, we have the very remarkable increase in the number of aviculturists throughout the country. Thus we see that there is now sufficient support for two weekly cage-bird publications and that each of them has been much improved by the competition.

Lastly, I must say that I think that we are most fortunate in the matter of our Editor. Mr. Page is a genuine enthusiast, and he cheerfully, ably, and gratuitously performs on our behalf an amount of work that many a literary man would shrink from undertaking even for a handsome salary—and this in addition to the ordinary routine of his profession.

The only cloud on the horizon is the matter of our finances. The deficit is not in itself a serious one, but the question whether we should cut down our expenditure to the level of our present income, or whether we can increase our income to the level of our present expenditure, is a crucial one and I think that all those who have views on the matter should state them. Personally I do not quite see eye to eye with our Editor in this matter and am inclined to think that the more cautious policy would be to deny ourselves the luxury of coloured plates until we have wiped out the deficit (in view of the fact that a coloured plate cost £6 and a photograph 10/-); but at the same time I quite understand Mr. Page's argument that to lower the standard of our Magazine, even for a time only, might cause us to lose some members, and I think we ought all to support his progressive policy and raise the required sum of £18.

I shall have much pleasure in subscribing a guinea towards this object. If the £18 is not subscribed, I suppose there will be some reduction in the number of plates for the present year.

W. E. TESCHEMAKER.

Post Mortem Reports.

The conditions upon which these will be made by Mr. HY. GRAY, M.R.C.V.S., 23, Upper Phillimore Place, Kensington, W., are as follows:

(1) The birds must be sent IMMEDIATELY after death.

(2) They *must* be packed in a box.

(3) *The letter accompanying them must* NOT *be placed in the box along with the bird.*

(N.B. Unless the above conditions are complied with the package will be destroyed without examination).

(4) The letter must detail *as far as possible* all particulars as to

(*a*) date of death,
(*b*) length of illness,
(*c*) symptoms of illness,
(*d*) lodgment and feeding of birds, and
(*e*) especially as to whether egg food or inga seed has been given.

(5) The work will be done gratuitously, and a report published in "Bird Notes," but *under no circumstances whatever will a report be sent by post unless a fee of* 2/6 *accompanies the letter and bird.* Pressure of work compels Mr. Gray to make this an invariable rule, and it applies to all members whether they are personally acquainted with him or not.

RED-HEADED GOULDIAN (hen). (Thos. Turner). Cause of death, acute pneumonia.

VIOLET-EARED WAXBILL (cock). (F. Howe). This bird had not completed its moult. There was double pneumonia; enlarged liver, which was undergoing fatty degeneration; and inflamation of the bowels. There was also jaundice. You did not mention whether you had just purchased any new birds, or had others ill, or had just recently lost any.

CANARY (hen). (Miss M. Lock). Exhaustion resulting from retention of egg in oviduct, no doubt due to change in weather.

TANAGER. (W. T. Rogers). Enteritis, pneumonia.

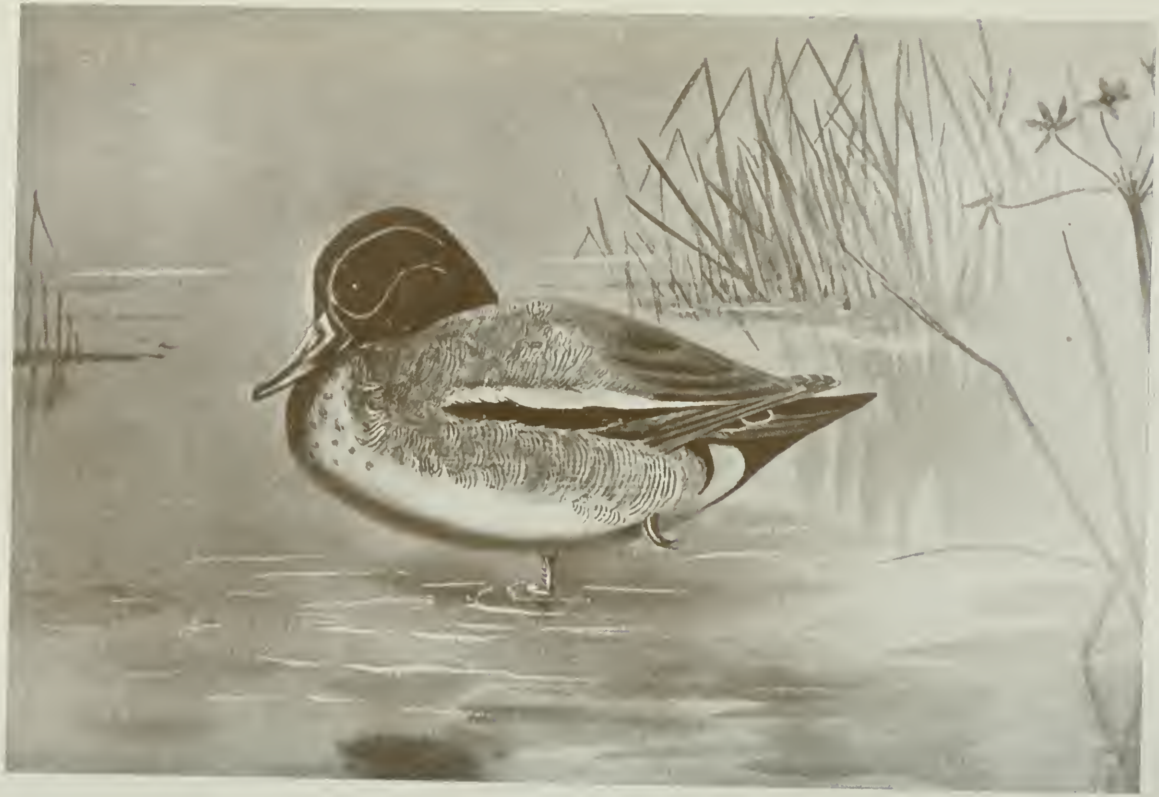
BRAZILIAN HANGNEST (hen). (O. Millsum). Cause of death, pneumonia. There was a parasite, 3 ins. in length, in peritoneal cavity.

YELLOW BUDGERIGAR (cock). (Miss E. Brooksbank). Both lungs affected with pleurisy.

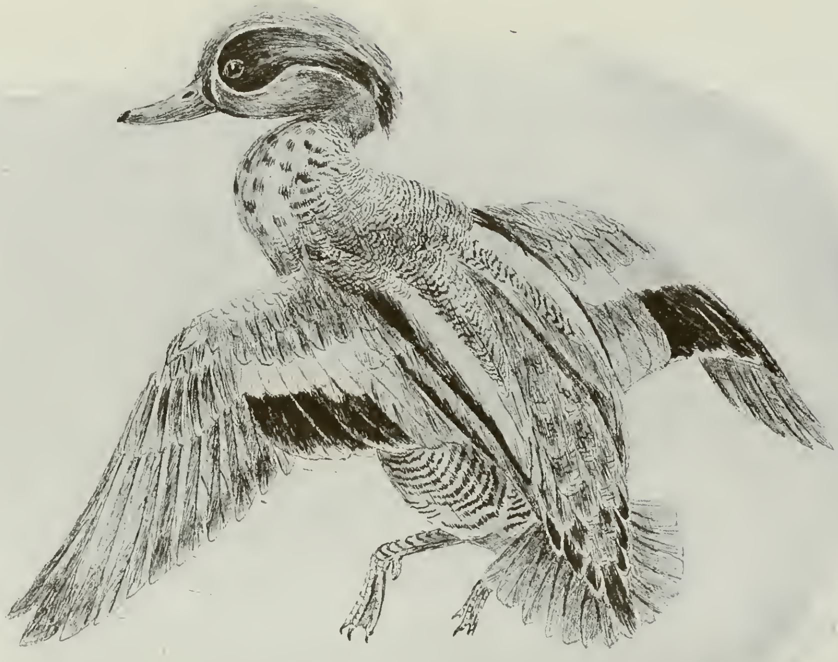
. (Miss L. J. Hetley). Cause of death, jaundice probably from a chill.

Answered by post:

GREY PARROT. (J. MacArthur).



THE TEAL.
(*Nettion crecca*).
Reproduced from a water colour drawing by Hugh Wormald,



H Wormald '08

Teal drake about
to alight

All rights reserved]. [JULY, 1908.

BIRD NOTES:
— THE —
JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

The Teal.

(*Nettion crecca*).

By H. WORMALD.

Having been commanded by our Editor to contribute an article on Teal for *Bird Notes*, I will endeavour to give a few particulars about them in freedom and captivity.

The Teal, in my opinion, easily wins the palm for beauty among British Ducks, though the Pintail is more graceful. One may shoot a Mallard and pick it up and put it in one's pocket or game-bag without a second glance, but I defy anyone to shoot a Teal drake in full winter plumage and not stop to admire the beautiful pencilling on the flanks and grand colour in the head and wings. Teal are very inactive and lethargic during the day, and spend most of the time sitting about, preening their feathers, or dozing with their bills hidden under their scapular feathers. They rise from the water very quickly and shoot straight up into the air, and unlike any other duck, give one no warning before rising. I have noticed that while they are making a straightforward flight they are capable of turning very quickly, and either dive downwards or shoot upwards—the latter stratagem being exceedingly trying to the gunner!

The courtship of the Teal is a very pretty sight; personally I have never had the opportunity of seeing more than one drake at a time display to a duck, though Mr. J. G. Millais has told me that he has seen several drakes displaying at once, and curiously enough, all to the same duck, even when there were other females at hand, which leads one to suppose that the individual duck was fitter and more willing to breed than the

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[I much regret being unable to reproduce Mr. Wormald's fine drawing in colour, as the half-tone process has brought out the colour values very indifferently.—ED.]

others round about. Eventually the duck goes off with a single drake, and remains strictly paired throughout the breeding season, and one never observes polyandry in the Teal as one occasionally does in the Shoveller. The attitudes of the drake during courtship are extremely curious; he may, apparently, be casually swimming about near the duck when he will suddenly sit up in the water and run his bill down his breast, at the same time emitting a beautiful double whistle, then he suddenly jerks his head back and tail up, so that the back of the head touches the tail over the middle of his back, at the same time showing the beautiful green speculum. I have never been able to satisfy myself whether he lowers the flank feathers or raises the scapulars to do this, as the motion is a quick one. The nest is a very pretty one for a duck, and is generally placed at some distance from the water, either in heather or gorse. I have met with Teal breeding in this county (Norfolk) near a small pond, 20 yards from the high road, on a heathery common. The eggs are very pretty, rather transparent, and the shells have a curious soapy feeling. I cannot state the period of incubation for certain, as none of the eggs, which from time to time I have attempted to hatch, have come off, either from being frosted, or else slightly incubated, before being sent to me, but I believe it to be twenty-one days. The ducks are splendid mothers, and even the drake, on occasion, will show great anxiety for the welfare of his family. The only hybrid with the Teal that I have seen was between the Teal drake and a wild duck: this cross was at one time considered a separate species and named the Bimaculated duck.

Teal seem fonder of stagnant pools with fringes of sedge, and holes in bogs rather than of large sheets of water, and are confirmed mudlarks, paddling about and guttering in the oozy mud, apparently with great enjoyment. Teal in confinement do well on wheat and barley, and are very fond of buckwheat, and in the winter chopped turnip is good. They will thrive with very little water, and I recommend anyone with a large aviary (wader aviary for choice) to keep a pair of these delightful little birds full-winged. I have had a pair since last August, full-winged in my wader aviary, where they fly about with great agility and never knock themselves about against the wire, which I rather feared they might do when I put them into the aviary. The duck is one of five sent to me last August from Renfrewshire, when about three weeks old: of these five I only managed to rear two, the others dying the day after their arrival. The drake I bought adult about the same time. They do very well in captivity, but it is extremely difficult to get pinioned birds to breed and, where space permits, I believe the best plan is to take off the first joint only: this allows the birds to fly well enough to escape foxes, etc., but not to go away, but of course it only answers where the surroundings are suitable to the birds' liking. Early this spring mine showed distinct signs of wishing to breed, but unfortunately the late snow we had here at the end of April, smashed in the roof of my aviary, which necessitated my catching up all the birds and penning them in a small enclosure for a couple of days while their aviary was being re-roofed. This of course upset all their ideas of breeding this season, but I hope for better luck next year. To successfully breed any of the "fancy" ducks absolute quiet is essential, also too many ducks should not be kept together, as they upset and disturb each other. A single pair of Shell ducks will disturb all the other ducks on the same piece of water.

The drake commences to go into eclipse plumage early in June and assumes his full winter plumage again in October or November. I have never seen any variety of colouring in the common Teal, though I have seen a pure white Garganey Teal. Teal constantly when flushed from some pool or sluggish stream, even when fired at, return to the same spot very shortly afterwards. I have never seen them, even when half-grown, dive for their food, as half-grown and even adult wild duck will do; but anyone who has winged a Teal which has fallen into water, knows that they can dive with remarkable agility. They are very good walkers and run among the stems of reeds and sedge very rapidly. My friend, who sent me the above mentioned five last August, wrote to me at the time saying that the other three of the brood which escaped, "ran like rats" to the water, where they instantly dived and were not seen again.

Some of our members who read my last article on Waders in Captivity may recollect that I mentioned my intention of endeavouring to rear Woodcock and Snipe in an incubator this year. I failed to get any Woodcock's eggs, but I secured two Snipe's eggs, which I put in the incubator, only one of which hatched (incubation 20 days), and at the time of writing the Snipe is seven weeks old and full feathered. He is absolutely tame and, although able to fly perfectly, accompanies me daily to a small pond where he bores round the edge for worms even while I stroke his back. The one drawback to him is his enormous appetite! It seems strange that a bird naturally so wild should be so tame. The Plover and Redshank, which I hatched and reared last season, never got really tame. The Snipe's companion is a baby Dabchick, now about a fortnight old, which was given to me when two days old and is also extraordinarily tame.

Aviary Birds I have met in their Natural State.

By Douglas Dewar, I.C.S.

I. INDIAN PAROQUETS.

Mr. Wesley T. Page has asked me to contribute to *Bird Notes* some jottings on the Indian birds that find their way into English aviaries. In complying with his request I desire to point out that my residence in India has been chiefly in the plains, so that my notes will not include hill species. As neither the Indian House Crow nor the Kite are seen in aviaries in England, I must refrain from discoursing upon these ubiquitous and familiar birds and begin with the Paroquets, which, in India, are commonly known as "Green Parrots" and which are as numerous and conspicuous in Hindustan as Rooks are in England. No fewer than fifteen species of these Paroquets disport themselves in the Peninsular and the adjacent Islands. Four species have a wide range and are very common wherever found. These are: the Alexandrine or Large Indian Paroquet (*Palæornis nepalensis*). The Rose-ringed Paroquet (*P. torquatus*). The Western Blossom-headed Paroquet (*P. cyanocephalus*). The Eastern Blossom-headed Paroquet (*P. rosa*).

They are all bright green birds, very like one another in appearance. All have long tails. The first two species have green heads, but the larger size and a red patch on each wing serve to distinguish the Alexandrine from the Rose-ringed species.

In each species of Blossom-headed Paroquet the head of the cock is suffused with a beautiful blue, like the bloom on a plum, while the head of the hen is of a slaty hue.

All species of Indian Paroquets have the same habits. What is true of any one species applies to all the others. They are social birds and go about in small flocks. The Indian husbandman detests them, and not without cause, for they do a vast amount of damage both to cereal and fruit crops.

When a flock espies a corn field it forthwith attacks it. Each individual breaks off a head of corn, and, having emptied a couple of ears, throws that head away and breaks off another. So powerful is the beak of these Paroquets that they experience no difficulty in breaking off and flying away with an orange.

Green Parrots are exceedingly noisy birds. The most that can be said for their calls is that they are perhaps less harsh, less blatantly offensive than those of most other Parrots. Green Parrots are quite as noisy when on the wing as when climbing about the branches of trees. They fly with extraordinary rapidity and very beautiful do they look as they dash through the air, like "live emeralds in the sun."

All the species nest in holes, either in trees or in some mosque or deserted building. The breeding season begins as early as January. Green Parrots invariably utilise ready-made holes. Last year's Woodpeckers' nests are very popular. If a pair of Paroquets have set their heart upon a certain hole which happens to be tenanted by the little palm squirrels, the birds make no bones about evicting the rodents who entertain a well-founded respect for polly's beak.

As is usual with birds that nest in holes, the eggs of all the Indian Paroquets are pure white, and those of any one species so like those of all other species as to be indistinguishable from them. All species of Green Parrots are very favourite cage birds in India. In that country the professional bird-catcher flourishes as he does nowhere else in the world. In the

Punjab he marks down the nests and removes the young birds a day or so before they are able to fly. In the Sunderbands the bird-catcher waits until the young have left the nest before he captures them, All the young Paroquets that are reared in the locality roost together for some weeks before they disperse over the country. "Slender sticks of split bamboo are placed in those parts of the jungle where the birds are likely to settle for the night, and the next morning the flocks fly away, leaving those of their companions that have been caught with the bird-lime to captivity for life." Baby Parrots are sold by the bird-catcher for four annas a head. In any city dozens of these captive birds may be seen. They are kept in solitary confinement in tiny metal cages, which must be terribly hot in the summer. The Indian Paroquets rarely, if ever, make good talkers. I have heard of many that talk well, but have never heard one talk.

For the benefit of those who wish to know more of the habits of these birds I append a list of books which deal with them, and propose to do the same for the other Indian birds upon which I note.

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(*To be continued*).

Nesting Notes.

By W. E. TESCHEMAKER, B.A.

Since I returned from my annual bird-trip, on the 1st of June, we have had a continual blaze of sunshine in Devonshire and for actually thirty days no rain has fallen. Yet I have had fewer nests this year than in any previous season. This confirms the view I have always held, namely that a dry summer is not necessarily the best for foreign birds (from the point of view of breeding results), with the possible exception of the Australian species. For instance the nesting season in South America comprises the months of September and October — the very wettest period of the year, and the same remark applies with nearly equal truth to South Africa.

Besides this I have had undoubtedly a run of bad luck with my aviaries, since 1906; during last season and this season I must have examined between thirty and forty nests which have not produced one single young bird fully reared. Of course I do not expect to succeed every time because I practically keep only species that have not been previously bred and which therefore usually present some special difficulty.

We will take the British species first, these being to me the most interesting.

Cirl Buntings have done well. I have one youngster fully reared, and a second nest containing three young, now nicely feathered; also several nests of eggs.

Lapland Buntings have been a disappointment. The hen built a nest but suddenly deserted it. The cause was not apparent until I concealed myself in an adjoining aviary. After a long wait I saw the hen timidly approach her nest (which was in a mound of turf sods constructed for her special benefit on a sloping roof), when a pair of Lesser Rock Sparrows (*Petronia dentata*) darted out from some adjoining ivy and, with hawk-like swoops, drove the unfortunate Bunting headlong the length of the aviary and against the wire netting where she fell stunned to the ground. It took two days to catch up the Rock Sparrows and by that time the pschychical moment had passed and the opportunity was lost.

A nice pair of Rock Pipits, which I caught in the Isle of Man in September 1907, were anxious to nest but they could not find a suitable locality. It was charming to see the male poised on outstretched wings, singing, and also to watch the twists and turns and lightning-speed of the love-flight.

A pair of Mealy Redpolls built a gem of a nest in the very top of a *Macrocarpa*. The young hatched and all went well for a few days. Then the—in my case—usual tragedy occurred. Early one morning the young completely disappeared nor was there anything to account for it but a small hole in one side of the nest, possibly made by a mouse.

A pair of Bramblings built and had laid one egg when their nest was destroyed by some Weavers which latter had been two years in the aviary and done no damage whatever.

A hen Nuthatch is sitting presumably on eggs. Shore Larks, Marsh Tits and Reed Buntings have done nothing and these are all the indigenous species I have tried this season.

We now come to the Foreign species, of which during the past season I have picked up several "first importations." A pair of large and handsome South American Grosbeaks built a large, flat, untidy nest but at the critical moment the male ran a thorn into one eye which nearly cost him his life. He recovered (and also recovered his eyesight) but the breeding impulse had left him and, when the eggs appeared, he eat them.

A small species of Saffron Finch, not at the moment identified, has young, still in the nest.

A pair of Cinnamon Tree Sparrows, from the Himalayas, have young, just ready to fly. Jerdon's Accentors (another Indian species) have a nest but no eggs. Pink-browed Rose Finches are building. A pair of Giant Whydahs have built two nests but have not laid. I have had several nests from a pair of Scaly-crowned Finches but the eggs have all proved unfertile; and the same remark applies to Cape Canaries and Sulphury Seedeaters.

A pair of small South American Doves (*Chamœpelia griseola*), have two young fully reared, and two more in the nest.

Cape Doves have laid three clutches of eggs, but have broken or deserted them all. The eggs of this species are described by Haagner as white, but all those laid by this hen have been saffron-coloured.

I have a pair of Scarlet and a pair of Superb Tanagers, neither of which have nested, and altogether the season has been a disappointing one.

"Hope for the best and expect the worst" is the motto of the aviculturist.

Some Recent Acquisitions.

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., M.B.N.H.S.

(*Continued from page* 103).

The Painted Finch (*Emblema picta*). This exquisite species has been almost unknown to aviculture till recently, when the enterprise of Messrs. Payne and Wallace resulted in some fifteen pairs being placed on the English market this spring; they imported one pair last year, which found a home in the aviaries of the Rev. H. D. Astley. One pair of this year's consignment has come into my possession, and a most delightful acquisition they are, and bid fair to do well and make a lengthy stay with me. This notice cannot be a fully detailed or descriptive one, but as Mr. Goodchild has made a fine drawing of my pair, and the plate will figure in a near issue of *Bird Notes*, a fuller account will then be given. So far my pair has shown no signs of nesting, save for the ♂ carrying a straw or two about, but no nest has yet been commenced. They have become fairly tame, and are most modest in their requirements; so far they have touched nothing but canary and white millet seed, *absolutely ignoring spray millet !* grit, grass in flower and a little chickweed. I have tried to tempt them with a mealworm but they would have nothing to do with it, neither will they touch the insectile mixture; however, as they have kept fairly fit, there is no cause for complaint. I am hoping that they will yet breed, Australian finches being late breeders, there is yet ample time for them to do so. Several pairs have been distributed in our members' birdrooms and aviaries, and one, Mr. A. L. Keith Murray, has been so fortunate as to have eggs, which however were soon deserted: the eggs which he kindly sent to me are pure white and very small for the size of the bird, being smaller than those of the Gouldian Finch.

Hab.: Central and Northern Australia.

The first to introduce these to the notice of English aviculture was the late Herr Wiener. In 1869 he was fortunate enough to obtain a pair under the name of "Julian Finches;" this was probably the first pair ever imported to Europe. Four years later he succeeded in obtaining another pair from a Liverpool hairdresser, this time under the name of "Australian Mountain Diamond Sparrows." However they did not live long in his possession.

I cannot close these brief notes without complimenting Messrs. Payne and Wallace upon the excellent condition in which they imported these birds, and providing they are not confined in small cages, all should do well; in fact I shall be very surprised if they are not bred before the year is out.

I very much regret that I am compelled to keep my pair in a large cage, as my outdoor aviary contains such a large and varied collection, that I do not care to risk so rare a species within its precincts.

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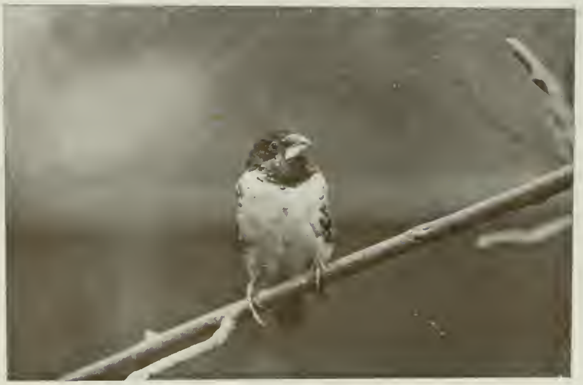
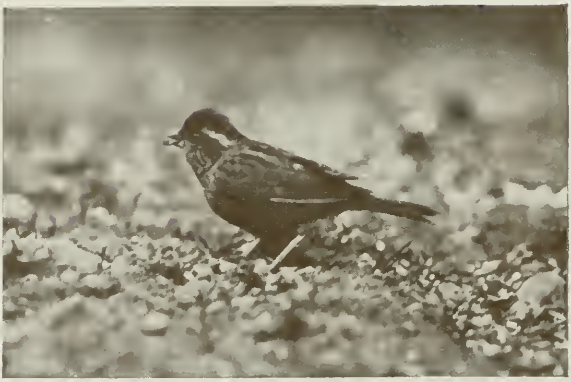
ROSY PASTORS (*Pastor roseus*). This species is so well known as to be almost out of place in these notes. It is an occasional visitor to the British Isles and has a very wide range, covering Europe, Asia, Asia Minor, Turkestan, and India. What tempted me to purchase the pair, which were imported by our esteemed member Capt. Perreau, was their exquisite condition. I have never seen a bird richer in hue, especially as to the depth of the rosy tint as the ♂. The courting display is very interesting and quaint, the wings are dropped till they almost touch the ground, the tail outspread and also dropped and dragged along the ground (very similar to a pigeon's display), the breast is also dropped and nearly all the feathers shaken out loose; thus he pursues his mate with a series of bounding hops, pausing now and again to utter a sort of rattling cackle. This movement is varied with a sort of erect stalking, in which the feathers are held very tight to the body, and the beautiful head-feathers fully



BRONZE X MAGPIE MANNIKIN HYBRID.
(*Spermestes cucullata*)
(*Amauresthes fringilloides*).



Photos by E. O. Page.

PINK-BROWED ROSEFINCH.
(*Propasser rhodochrous*).

erected and extended, vigorously pouring out his song (by courtesy) the whole time. At this time he is a handsome bird indeed, and I am not without hopes of breeding them. The female is rather smaller, slightly less rosy in hue, and the feathers of the head not quite so long as those of the male.

As regards song this is decidedly below *par*, even for Starling melody.

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PINK-BROWED ROSE FINCH (*Propasser rhodochrous*). The male is a beautiful bird indeed, though it is doubtful if he will retain his beautiful rosy hue for any lengthy period in captivity. The female is a study in brown, very prettily marked but without any of the rich hues of the male. The adult male is brown on the upper surface, with an intense rosy wash over the whole; the under surface is bright rose-colour, striated with brown; the eyebrow streak is very distinct and rich in colour. I have this pair in my largest aviary, where they have become very fit and almost ridiculously tame, especially the female, so much so that one cannot open the aviary door with provender of any kind in the hand, without her alighting on same, even coming out of the aviary to do so, but never attempting to fly away, entering the aviary again with you, contentedly feeding on the contents of your hand; once you are inside the male joins her. I have great hopes of them breeding as they are often seen carrying straws about, but there has been no serious attempt at nesting yet. If the confiding demeanour of my pair may be taken as typical of the species, they certainly are delightful birds, which should become at home in our aviaries, and soon settle down and reproduce their kind. The reproduced photo of the female is very characteristic, and will give a general idea of the markings of both sexes, but as already stated the female is brown, the male more or less rosy-red.

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THE GREY-WINGED OUZEL (*Merula boulboul*). I have possessed the male of this species before, which I described fully in Vol. V. *Bird Notes*, and have nothing to add thereto, save to say that I was very glad that Capt. Perreau was able to procure me a true pair, which I shall hope to breed next season. It has a fine appearance and is a grand songster. This and kindred species thrive on any good insectile mixture, fruit, and live insects. I must however qualify one point in my former article on these birds. I there described it, and rightly too of that individual, as amiable and safe with small species—I must now state, I have since observed my present pair catching and devouring any small mice that find their way into their enclosure, that it is evident, that even if they did not harm the adult birds they would most certainly devour any callow young they could get at. The photo reproduced is of my previous bird, since being set up, the attitude is true to life; and portrays its fine form and markings very strikingly, as perhaps would not be possible from a photo of the living bird.

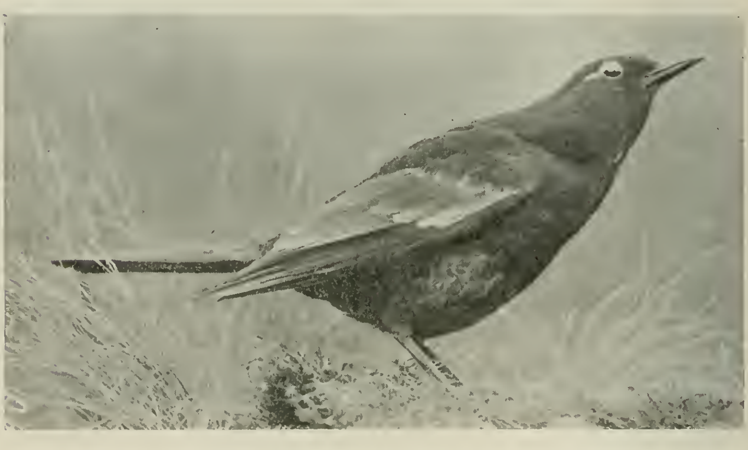

Photo by E. O. PAGE.

GREY-WINGED OUZEL.

(*To be continued*).

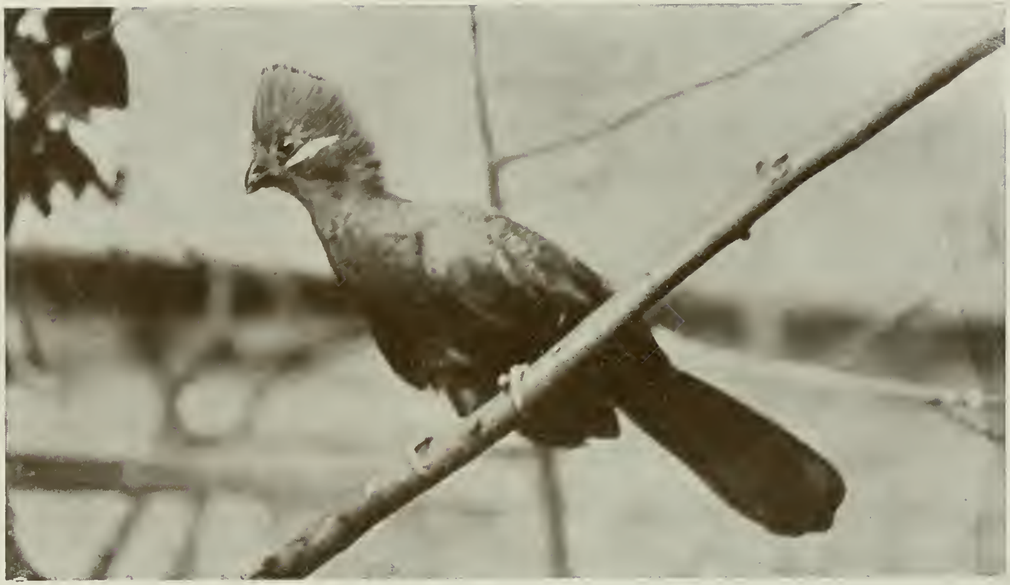

Photo copyright by W. S. Berridge, F.Z.S.

GREAT-BILLED TOURACOU.
(*Turacus macrorhynchus*).

From "The World's Birds."

To face page 104.

The Ribbon Finch.

(*Amadina fasciata*).

By AVICULTURIST.

Also known as the CUTTHROAT, RED-BANDED, RED-THROATED and CORAL-NECKED FINCH.

This common but pretty species is 4½ inches long; tail 1 inch. It is stoutly built, and so well known as to scarcely need description. Briefly, the general colour of its plumage is several shades of fawn or golden brown, but each feather is more or less pencilled with white and black, imparting an undulated or scaled appearance to the plumage of the undersurface; beak, legs, and feet dull flesh colour. The male is further distinguished by a circlet of ruby on the throat extending from ear to ear, and a patch of very dark brown or chocolate on the abdomen, thickly interspersed with white spots.

They are very common in Western and South Western Africa, where they are the *bête noire* of the millet growers on account of their partiality to that seed, visiting the fields in large flocks and doing considerable damage. It has been introduced into Mauritius and St. Helena, where it has become quite established, and increased to such an extent that many of the large importations which reach the English market come from there. In confinement, if put into an ordinary outdoor aviary in June, they will come safely through our sharpest winters, even in northern localities, and except the newly-imported individuals, these are among the longest lived inhabitants of my aviary.

FOOD: In a state of nature they are partly insectivorous during the breeding season, as is also the case with our native finches. In confinement, canary seed, white and spray millet will be sufficient to keep them in health, but mine always have access to ants' eggs, given dry as purchased, also a few insects and they are the more vigorous for them, with green food (canary-grass and field grass in flower). grit, and ample provision to exercise their love of a bath.

BREEDING: Not much is known for so common a species of their habits in a state of nature; their nest is a clumsy domed structure in some bush or small tree. In my aviary they have never attempted to build, but always have made use of a box nest, almost filling it with hay, feathers, grass, etc.; they are scrupulously clean in their domestic arrangements, as on examining nests after young had flown, they were so clean, that if one had not known the contrary, it was hard to believe they could have been used for rearing a brood. Almost any square box will do—say six to eight inches square—that is closed all round, with an elliptical hole cut in one side for entrance and a perch fixed in front of same. The young so far as I could ascertain were always fed almost exclusively on dry ants' eggs (though they had the choice of seeds and soft food as well) up to time of leaving the nest, afterwards on millet only; the young are very strong and able to care for themselves in about ten days after leaving the nest: all hatched are usually reared. Nidification occupies twelve or thirteen days; both birds share the duties of incubation. The season out-doors lasts from May to October, indoors all the year round, except during moult. However I have met with no success in the attempt to breed them indoors in cages, but others have been more fortunate.

CHARACTER: Experiences vary so much that all I can say is, that with me they have always behaved in an exemplary manner, and in my fairly large, but rather crowded aviary, I have had odd hens, which refused the attentions of various bachelor Mannikins, but took possession of a nest box, laid and incubated eggs, which of course were unfertile, *but they made no attempt to interfere with the nesting arrangements of the pairs*, so I class them as amiable inmates of my aviary.

The young exactly resemble their parents, though their plumage lacks the lustre of the adult bird. This resemblance is common to both sexes, both sexes being as distinct when they leave the nest as are the adult birds. If not showily coloured, Ribbon Finches have a quiet elegant beauty of their own; they are hardy, easily kept in condition and but little trouble in an aviary. Mr. Ribbon is so grotesque and amusing when making love to his mate, with his jumping, twirling and ridiculous (to us) contortions, as to be really entertaining, even when they are well known.

Song they have none—the male has a not unpleasant warble, somewhat similar to the Java Sparrow, though more subdued; they have a noisy chirp, and when excited can make a considerable amount of noise, very similar to the common House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*). In spite of their small value, and at times the difficulty of disposing of the young, I consider them to be a pleasing and entertaining addition to a mixed series of Finches, Buntings, etc.

Editorial.

NESTING NOTES: These are not as yet by any means numerous, but the present settled spell of fine weather should speedily bring about an improvement. Our esteemed member, Mr. E. Perkins, has a nest of young Stanley Parrakeets, strong and healthy, being nearly six weeks old. Mr. Perkins is to be congratulated on his success with this beautiful and still by no means common species, though the enterprise of Messrs. Payne and Wallace has made them much more numerous than they used to be. Our esteemed member, Mr. Pickles, has about thirty young of the ubiquitous Zebra Finch; while Gouldian, Bicheno and Ruficauda Finches are incubating. He also has three young Long-tailed Grassfinches which have now been a month out of the nest; and he records an interesting occurrence in connection with them. While the Longtails were incubating and also when the young were hatched, they permitted a ♀ Zebra Finch to go in and out of their nest as she pleased, in fact she was in and out of the nest at frequent intervals each day for the whole period till the young left the nest. At the same time any other intruders were not permitted to approach within a yard of the nest, but were at once chased away. Zebra Finches are notorious for being ready to act as foster parents to any fledgling they can annex; and I have noticed, on more than one occasion, that they have appeared to have a share in other birds' nests, the owners of which have been very tolerant of their (Zebra Finches) presence, while strange to say they have been intolerant of the intrusion of other species. At the same time I must say I have *never* lost a brood that I know of owing to the interference of the Zebra Finch, but other aviculturists have not been so fortunate. Other similar records would be of interest.

In my own aviary the only case worth recording is the advent of three hybrid Bronze × Magpie Mannikins (*Spermestes cucullata—Amauresthes fringilloides*), they do not call for description, as this has been fully done in Vol. V., one of these hybrids being reared in my aviary (it still lives) last season. On the present occasion six eggs were laid and fully incubated but only three were fertile, and at time of writing are almost fully fledged. The accompanying photograph, which is of the one reared in my aviary last season, gives a good indication of the resemblance of the adult hybrid to its parents. The hybrid lacks the bronze wing patches of the Bronze Mannikin and also the fawn side patches of the Magpie Mannikin, in other respects the resemblance is about equal and in size it is about midway between the two species.

Mr. Millsum records a rather interesting occurrence: a Silky Cowbird has laid an egg in a Canaries' nest, it is being incubated and I am awaiting, with much interest, to learn if Mr Millsum succeeds in hand rearing the youngster—the egg is fertile. This I believe to be the first instance in which this species has given direct evidence of its parasitical habits in an English aviary.

NESTING OF BLACK-HEADED SIBIA: Recently having the privilege of looking over Mrs. Warren Vernon's collection of Foreign birds, an account of which I must leave to a later issue, I was much interested to learn that the Sibias were incubating and almost due to hatch: no close examination was made for fear of disturbing the birds, and the nest being in a dark corner a photograph was impossible. A finer or more vigorous pair of birds I never saw, and there seems every probability that the young will be successfully reared. As they have not previously been bred in this country it appears very probable that this distinction will fall to the lot of our esteemed member.

THE CLUB'S CERTIFICATES: Certificates have been granted to Mr. W. E. Teschemaker for breeding the Cirl Bunting (*E. cirlus*), the Dwarf Ground Dove (*Chamæpelia griseola*), and the Cinnamon Tree Sparrow (*Passer cinnamomeus*), for the first time in this country.

THE ZOO COLLECTION OF AUSTRALASIAN BIRDS: The birds, though coming to hand in good condition are not as representative a series as one might have hoped for, and also many of them are not yet in fully mature plumage. The collection consists of the following among others:—

Garrulous Honeyeaters
Blue-faced ,, ,,
Warty-faced ,, ,,
Spiny-cheeked ,, ,,
New Holland ,, ,,
Yellow-chinned ,,
Spine-billed ,, ,,
Blue Wrens
Parrot Finches
Fire-tailed ,,
Butcher Bird
Oriole
Cuckoo Shrike
Queen Alexandra Parrakeets
Swainson's Lorikeets
Yellow-collared ,,
Banksian Cockatoos
Kea Parrots
Satin Bower Birds
Spotted ,, ,,
Black and White Fantails
White Goshawks
Musk Duck
Apteryx
Peaceful Doves
Bronze-winged Pigeons

White-backed Magpies
Black- ,, ,,
Japanese Hawfinches
Yellow-rumped Tit
Coach-whip Bird
King Parrakeets
Red-rump ,,
Crimson-wing ,,
Barnard's ,,
Mealy Rosella ,,
Yellow-collared ,,
Blue Bonnet ,,
Stanley ,,
Black-tailed ,,
Pileated ,,

Bleeding-heart Pigeons
Stone Plovers
Wattled ,,
Black-breasted ,,
Laughing Kingfisher
Buff- ,, ,,
Leache's ,,
Sacred ,,
Tasmanian Native hen
Blue Coots
Pectoral Rail
Varied Hemipodes
Pied Grallinas
Black Water Hen
Green ,, ,,

and Owls, Eagles, Cranes, Ibises, Ducks, Geese, Plovers, Pelicans, etc.

The above series, contains many rarities, but space will only permit a passing notice of a portion of them, and naturally of those species which appealed most to the writer. They were brought over under the personal superintendance of Mr. D. Seth-Smith, the able Editor of the *Avicultural Magazine*, who is to be congratulated upon the excellent condition in which both birds and animals have arrived.

NEW HOLLAND HONEYEATER (*Meliornis novæ-hollandiæ*): An account of the Sombre Honeyeaters appeared in our last issue, and with this series have come to hand quite a number of these interesting birds, most of which are quite new to aviculture, some being actual first importations. From Gould's *Birds of Australia* we gather it is one of the most abundant and familiar birds of N.S. Wales, Tasmania and S. Australia. It frequents the gardens of the settlers, and annually breeds among their shrubs and flowering plants. It has a beautiful and striking appearance as it indulges in its quick jumping flight from shrub to shrub. Its notes are loud, shrill, liquid and also very monotonous; but up to the present these have not been much indulged in. Its food in a state of nature consists of pollen and nectar of flowers, fruit and insects. In captivity they appear to do well on insectile mixture, fruit, milksop and insects. Its eggs are two or three in number, pale buff in colour and spotted and lined with chestnut-brown. There are two or three broods in the year; the nest is easily found, being placed in any low or open bush. The sexes are recorded as being alike in colour. Description: Top of head and cheeks black, with fine white band round base of upper mandible; two facial streaks white, which is also the colour of a tuft of feathers behind the ear-coverts; upper surface black, washed with brown on the rump; wings black, tinged with brown with outer edges of the quills bright yellow, merging into whitish near the tips; the tail is also black with a brownish tinge, with the outer bases margined with bright yellow; the under surface is white with broad black striations; bill, legs and feet black; irides white. A pleasing and beautiful species, with their attitudes and movements very much in keeping with those ascribed to them in a state of nature.

WARTY-FACED HONEYEATER (*Meliphaga phrygia*): A very beautiful species, which ranges over S. Australia to N.S. Wales. Unlike the preceding species it is found only on the tops of the tallest trees, where Gould states it reigned supreme and was the most pugnacious bird he ever saw, buffeting and driving every other bird from its immediate neighbourhood. Gould also states that it largely depends for its sustenance upon the flowers of the *Eucalypti*. The nest, usually placed in the overhanging branch of a *Eucalyptus*, is cup-shaped, constructed of fine grasses and lined with wool and hair. The eggs are two in number, yellowish-buff in colour, spotted and blotched with rufous and purplish grey. I have mislaid the notes I made referring to this species, so quote Gould's description in full:—

> "Head, neck, upper part of back, chin, and chest black; scapularies black, broadly "margined with pale yellow; lower part of the back black, margined with yellowish "white; upper tail coverts like the scapularies; wings black, the coverts margined with "yellow; spurious wing yellow; primaries black, with an oblong stripe of yellow "occupying the margin of the outer and a portion of the inner web next the quill, which "is black; secondaries black, broadly margined on the outer web with yellow; under "surface black, with an arrow-shaped mark of yellowish white near the extremity of "each feather; two centre tail-feathers black, slightly tipped with yellow; the remainder "black at the base, and yellow for the remainder of their length, the black decreasing "and the yellow increasing as the feathers recede from the two central ones; irides "reddish brown; bill black; feet blackish brown; warty excrescences covering the face "dirty yellowish white.
>
> "The sexes are similar in colouring, but the female is much smaller than the male, "and the young are destitute of the warty excrescences on the face, that part being "partially clothed with feathers."

SPINY-CHEEKED HONEYEATER (*Acanthogenys rufigularis*): This is a most interesting species, differing widely from the others described in these notes, in the spines which adorns the sides of its face. Its contour and deportment is both elegant and graceful.

WHITE-EYEBROWED SPINE-BILLED HONEYEATER (*Acanthorhynches superciliosus*): I fear my description is somewhat incomplete, but this can be rectified in a later notice. Head, upper surface and wings, greyish-brown; which is also the colour of the tail with the exception of the outer feathers which are black—most of the feathers have white tips; sides of face brownish-black, with two white streaks one above and one below the eye; sides of neck light chestnut-brown; throat rich golden-chestnut, bounded with a crescentic band of white, followed with a similar band of black; abdomen and ventral region light brown, washed with greyish; bill black; legs and feet blackish-brown. It is over five inches in length of which the tail measures barely half.

Gould states the sexes present little or no difference in external appearance, but that the female is smaller and more slender than the male. He also states that it displays great activity, darting from branch to branch, indulging in an irregular and uneven flight, uttering the while a rather pretty song.

BLUE-FACED HONEYEATER (*Entomyza cyanotis*): This to my mind is almost the pick of the consignment, being truly gorgeous, with a fine contour equally as elegant as their plumage. On my first visit they were caged, so that I was able to make fairly complete notes of their beautiful plumage, and on my next visit, a week later, they were at liberty in the Western Aviary and I was able to observe the bounding and rapid flight, though the supposed hen unfortunately was weak on the legs and did not indulge to the same extent as her mate. They are fully twelve inches in length and certainly must be numbered amongst the most elegant and beautiful birds I have seen.

Male: Top of head and back of neck black, eye region rich blue, with a greenish sheen above the eye, a crescentic mask on the occiput and a line passing down each side of the neck white; lower part of face dark slate colour; under surface white; upper surface, including wing and tail rich golden-olive, the tail feathers are tipped with white and have their inner webs brown; bill bluish grey, darker at the tip, legs and feet bluish grey.

The supposed female corresponds with Gould's description of the young in immature plumage, so I refrain from giving the description of the bird at present. Gould states the sexes are alike. I had better quote him:—

> "The sexes differ in no respect from each other either in the colouring of the plumage "or in the blended richness and delicacy of the blue surrounding the eye, to which it is "almost impossible for the artist to do justice."

GARRULOUS HONEYEATER (*Manorhina garrula*). This species has appeared at the Zoo before. It is somewhat similar to the Sombre Honeyeater described in the June issue of *Bird Notes*, but is a little larger and has more black on the head and face. Briefly the upper surface is greyish-brown, with the feathers at the back of the neck tipped with silvery grey; the under surface is grey with the feathers margined with lighter grey; crown of the head, ear coverts and facial stripe glossy black; tail feathers tipped with white, and the bases of the outer margin of the wing feathers yellow; naked space below eye, bill, legs and feet yellow. This is a handsome if rather noisy species, and its deportment in the Western Aviary is an exact replica of that given in the notes on the Sombre Honeyeater in our last issue.

Space will not permit further description of this handsome and interesting group of birds, though size and richness of plumage varies considerably. So far, from the very limited opportunity I have had of studying the foregoing fairly representative species, their general deportment in captivity appears very similar, in spite of the fact that some are found occupying the tops of lofty trees, while others frequent bushes and small trees. Also they all appear equally to thrive on ripe fruit, milk sop, insectile mixture and insects. It is to be hoped that the brighter plumaged species may now be fairly frequently imported.

PIED GRALLINA (*Grallina pictata*): This is a very fine and striking species, with Wagtail-like movements and demeanour. Gould states that few of the Australian birds are more attractive or more elegant and graceful in its actions, and these, combined with its tame and familiar disposition, must ever obtain for it the friendship and protection of the settlers. He also states that he has specimens from N.S. Wales, Swan River and Port Essington, but believes it to be pretty generally distributed over the greater part of Australia. Its flight is however very different to that of the English Pied Wagtail, it flies mostly in a straight line with a heavy flapping motion of the wings; it is a much larger bird than the English Wagtail. Its plumage calls for but a brief description, it is almost equally pied, glistening black and white; a handsome and striking bird. The female differs from the male in having more white on the head. The nest is composed of soft mud, which soon hardens in the sun, and has the appearance of a large open earthenware vessel, five to six inches in diameter and three inches deep. I have as yet seen but little of these interesting and beautiful birds —their demeanour is already confiding and their form and deportment graceful in the extreme; when on the ground their Wagtail-like run is very noticeable. To the settlers these birds are known as Magpie Larks and Little Magpies, while the Aboriginies call them *By-yoo-gool-yee-de* and *Dil-a-but.*

COACH-WHIP BIRD (*Psophodes crepitans*): This bird did not lend itself to detailed notes of its plumage when I saw it at the Zoo; it fully kept up its reputation as a shy and retiring species, so I quote herewith Gould's description *in extenso* :—

> "The male has the head, ear coverts, chin and breast black; a large patch of white "on each side of the neck, all the upper surface, wings, flanks, and base of the tail "feathers olive-green; the remaining portion of the tail feathers black, except that the "three lateral feathers on each side are tipped with white; under surface olive-brown, "some of the feathers on the centre of abdomen tipped with white, and forming a conspicuous irregular patch; irides brownish-red; bill, inside and out, and base of the "tongue black; feet reddish-brown."

It is a shy and retiring species found only in dense brushes, and is confined to N.S. Wales, where it is very abundant. Though new to the London Zoo, I saw this species several years ago in the aviaries of Mr. R. Phillipps; in this instance too I had no opportunity of observing the bird owing to its retiring nature, but had ample opportunity of listening to its realistic call, which exactly resembles the crack of a whip.

Other species will be noticed in next issue.

OUR MAGAZINE: It will be seen from the balance sheet, which appears in the inset, that last year's income was very insufficent for the publication of a Magazine commensurate with the subscription of the Club. This arises chiefly from our present small membership, an evil which I am happy to say is growing less with each succeeding issue; the steady influx of new members is a most hopeful and gratifying feature, and the interest and generosity of members and officials has prevented a serious deficit. For the current Volume the shortage of income against expenditure will not be anything like so heavy as in the previous year; an approximate estimate would place it at about half, that is calculating on our present rate of increase being maintained, this expectation judging from evidence to hand is certainly a reasonable one. Without being unduly optimistic I feel assured that in the Volume (that is next year's) following this, the income and expenditure will just about balance. Making full allowance for the above features, both favourable and unfavourable, I consider the outlook very hopeful indeed. At the same time, I must say that personally I consider it would be little short of suicidal, or at least very short-sighted policy to cut down the bulk of the Magazine or number of its illustrations to any serious extent, so as to make income and expenditure meet during the present year. Now I appeal to *all* the members to express their opinion on the following issues:—

(1) Shall the Magazine be continued upon its present scale, *i.e.* as to bulk and illustrations, or shall it be cut down sufficiently to make expenditure and income meet?

(2) If it be decided to continue as at present, we shall require about £25 above our estimated income to close the current year free of debt.

(3) I have suggestions that we should increase our Subscription to 15/-; this I should strongly oppose as a move in the wrong direction; also I am opposed to it being left to a few to make up deficiencies; this also is most unsound policy. What then is the alternative? The issue appears to me very simple, as this is the year which will practically bring the Club into a sound financial position. I am willing for another year to give a donation to cover the whole of Editor's and Secretary's postage account, and also to provide one Coloured Plate, as I feel that to economise as indicated would place a sudden check upon the very satisfactory increase that is now taking place in our membership. Now if each member would send a donation of only 5/- all our difficulties would disappear, the officials could carry on the work of the Club unburdened by any anxiety, and the successful future of the Club be practically assured. This surely would fall heavily upon none.

The issue is a very simple one, and it lies with the members to decide whether we continue the present "Progressive Policy" or resort to an "Economical" one and cut down the bulk of the Magazine and the number of its illustrations, so as to bring its cost more within the scope of our *present* income, and I trust *every* member will respond.

I earnestly appeal *to all the members to express their opinion*—not necessarily for publication, any member can mark their communication "not for publication"—a free expression of views held upon these matters (which every member should take an interest in), would make the task of the Club's officials much more easy and pleasant than it is at present.

Just on going to press, a member of the Committee writes re above: "Members have now a very simple means of expressing their opinion. "If they subscribe the 5/- they declare themselves 'Progressive'; if they do "not subscribe we shall understand them to be 'Economists'! This will "be a kind of 'Plébiscite' on your policy."

MORE RARE BIRDS FOR THE ZOO: Just on going to press we learn that four new species of Birds of Paradise have been added to the Zoo Collection, viz:—Raggi's, Six-shafted or Golden, Magnificent and Scale-breasted, this latter is also known as the New Guinea Rifle Bird. Mr. C. W. B. Horsbrugh who has been to British New Guinea for the London Zoo, to gather together a series of indigenous birds, has succeeded in landing 30 specimens of Birds of Paradise, rare and gorgeous Fruit Pigeons, etc., forming an unique addition to the already fine series of Foreign Birds at the Zoo. It has now been amply demonstrated that these magnificent birds can be successfully kept in captivity. Our esteemed member, Capt. Perreau has presented a number of birds, including the Plumbeous Redstart and others new to the Collection.

VARIATIONS: on page 89, line 6 from bottom, for the lavas read the *Sepoy Finch*.

L.C.B.A. Members Show.

This Exhibition, held on Saturday, July 11th, in the Holborn Town Hall, was not a success, either as regards number of entries or the visiting public, and a dull afternoon did not tend to make matters more cheerful; and a more unsuitable or badly lighted room could not well have been chosen. There were four classes for Foreign Birds with ten entries.

PARRAKEETS.—Mrs. L. Miller, 1st and Special, with one of the finest Swainson's Lorikeets ever exhibited.

WAXBILLS, etc.—Mrs. L. Miller, 1st and 3rd, Voilet-eared Waxbills and Crimson Finch; 2nd, J. Dewhurst, Madagascar Weaver.

TANAGERS, SUGAR BIRDS, etc.—Mrs. L. Miller, 1st, Special, and 2nd, exquisite specimens of Yellow-winged Sugar Bird and Superb Tanager; 3rd, J. Dewhurst, Superb Tanager, colour fed, richly coloured, but not so pleasing, in the writer's opinion, as the natural bird.

ANY OTHER SPECIES.—J. Dewhurst, 1st and 2nd, with a good pair of Coleys and a very fine Black-headed Sibia. A nice Hooded Siskin was entered here, and, of course, wrong classed.

The British Classes contained some nice and uncommon exhibits, but the entries here only averaged about three per class.

BUNTINGS.—A nice series, all owned by V. Wynn. Yellow, 1st; Snow, 2nd; Lapland, 3rd; and a good Cirl Bunting.

SOFTBILLS.—Reed Warbler, 1st; hen Blackcap, 2nd; Lesser Whitethroat, 3rd; three handsome and uncommon birds all owned by J. Dewhurst.

Correspondence.

THE ILLUSTRATION FUND.

SIR,—I gather from *Bird Notes* that the Magazine is in debt to the amount of £18, and that if this is not cleared off there is a chance that the coloured plates may be discontinued.

If two other members of the Foreign Bird Club will within the next month find £5 each towards this deficit I will find another £5.

E. J. BROOK.

NESTING OF PAINTED FINCHES.

SIR,—My Painted Finches have made a nest in cage (Roehl's) 32in. in length, of the usual German type; the nest is loose grass outside, inside it is lined all round with white charpie. They have two eggs to-day (July 9th), the cock seems to sit all day: he looks splendid in the white-lined nest. I have a Tweed's roller hen sitting on Grey Singing-finch cross eggs, so if Painted Finches decline to complete incubation, the hen will come in handy as foster parent. The nest is built in German nest box, loose grass projects outside, imparting a ragged appearance; the front of the nest is a circle, and the sitting bird can be easily seen. I am hoping for complete success.

The birds are let loose in room once a day, and let me approach within a foot of them before moving, and will hardly get out of my way on the floor.* A. L. KEITH MURRAY.

NESTING OF PARROT FINCHES.

SIR,—I thought it might be of interest to record that I have three young Parrot Finches: they left the nest ten days ago. They are fine birds, can fly well and are eating seed. The old birds are already sitting again on four or five eggs.

I have nineteen young Canaries (Yorks.) from two hens. Fourteen of them are over the moult: I have only lost one youngster. I fed them principally on dandelion, egg and biscuit. HELEN G. BROMET.

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* This interesting communication came to hand just as we were going to press.

Post Mortem Reports.

(*Vide Rules*).

BULL-FINCH (cock). (The Hon. Mrs. Somerset Ward.) The cause of death was pneumonia and as the breast bone was prominent and there was signs of diarrhœa the bird must, in my opinion, have been suffering some days. No doubt the prolonged journey accelerated its death.

BLACK-HEADED GOULDIAN FINCH (cock). (Miss Drummond.) The cause of the death of this beautiful bird was very acute double pneumonia. There was no sign of an injury.

Pneumonia in birds is, just now, very prevalent. It is quite possible for a bird to have the infection lying latent within its system for weeks or months and under some depressing influence, such as atmospherical changes lowering the vitality, the latent or masked infection asserts itself and sets up disease.

This view is in agreement with that generally held for the causation of pneumonia in the various domesticated animals, which rarely, if ever, have pneumonia *per se*.

AFRICAN WAXBILL (hen). (Mrs. Harrop-Sidebottom.) The cause of death was egg-binding.

YELLOW YORKSHIRE CANARY (cock). (J. C. W. Meadows.) Cause of death, nodular form of septic fever. The spleen was twenty times normal size and crammed full of small yellow nodules. The liver was very much enlarged and undergoing fatty degeneration.

The disease is very contagious and requires active steps for the prevention of its spreading.

Young CANARY (cock). (Miss M. Gibbons). Cause of death, pneumonia The spleen was enlarged but otherwise normal.

Young BUDGERIGAR. (Walter H. Fisher.) Cause of death, pneumonia. The body was very plump.

GOULDIAN FINCH (hen). (Mrs. L. Rogerson.) Acute double pneumonia. The external coat of the heart was intensely stained, suggesting some acute bacterial infection of the blood. The bird's breast-bone was somewhat prominent, as if the bird had been suffering a few days.

GREEN BUDGERIGAR (cock). (Miss H. L. Morgan). Cause of death, acute pneumonia. The bird was undergoing its moult. Had it been exposed to a draught ?

Young VIRGINIAN CARDINAL (fourteen days old). (J. Hume). I am of opinion your bird died from malnutrition consequent upon improper food. Too many mealworms are injurious. The adult birds are fond of canary seed—at least mine are.

BLACK-HEADED GOULDIAN FINCH (hen). (J. H. Henstock). Cause of death, enlarged liver and jaundice.

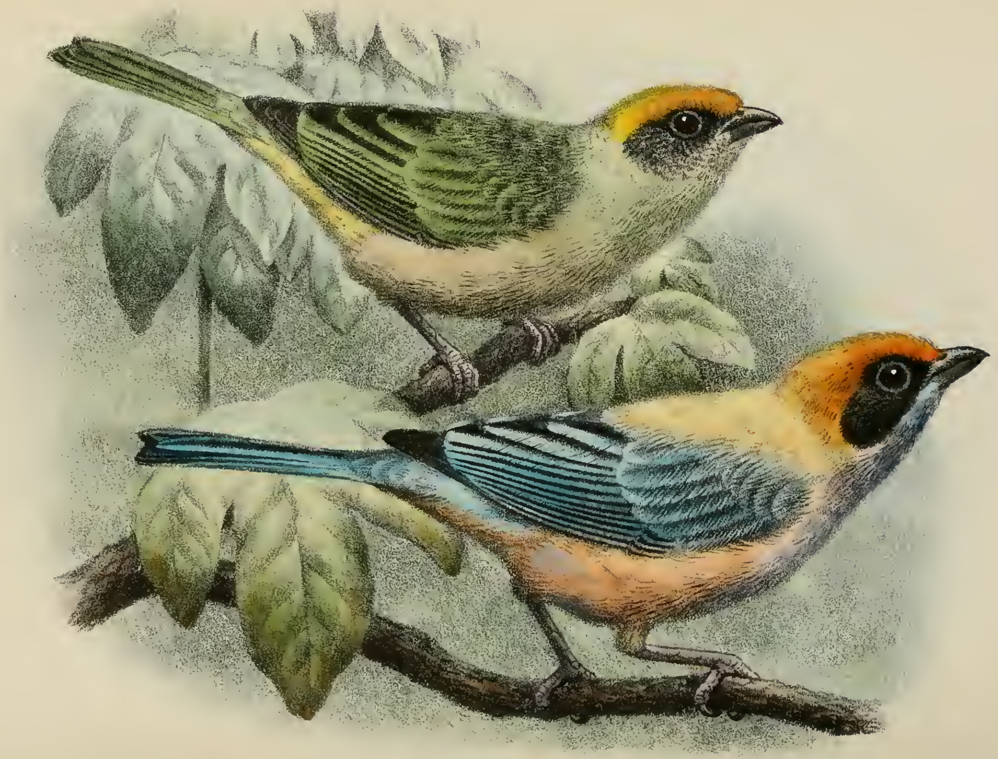
Answered by post : (The Countess of Winchilsea and Nottingham).

ERRATUM.

VIOLET-EARED WAXBILL—3rd line, page 112, for inflamation read *inflammation* ; and for bowels read *bowel.*

On page 112, before (Miss L. J. Hetley) insert LAVENDER FINCH.

HENRY GRAY, M.R.C.V.S.



H. Goodchild del. et lith. Huth imp.

THE BLACK-CHEEKED or LESSER RUFOUS-NECKED TANAGER.

(Calliste cayana)

From a living specimen in the possession of W. T. Page, Esq.

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BIRD NOTES:

— THE —

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

The Black-cheeked or Lesser Rufous-headed Tanager.

(Calliste cayana)

By O. Millsum.

I have received a command from our esteemed editor for a few remarks on the beautiful Tanager (*Calliste cayana*), of which a coloured plate accompanies this article, and of which I am the proud possessor. It was formerly in our editor's possession, indeed the credit of getting it through its first moult in this country belongs to him.

Possessing a name which is apt to mislead one, *i.e.*—the Black-cheeked Tanager, one which I cannot appreciate, as I prefer the better suited name given to this species by Sclater, that of the Lesser Rufous-headed Tanager, one is inclined to expect a sombre bird of the black species, perhaps with a little colouring. But to my surprise when seeing this gem to which this name has been given, it is beautiful beyond description, at least that was my impression. To this bird nature has been very lavish with her gifts. The wondrous blending of colouring, so rich, so chaste, so bright, flashing in the light and appearing to change with every movement of the bird, yet withal so superbly graduated that there is nothing to offend the most fastidious. This bird is the Sultan amongst my birds, the ewe lamb of my collection, and yet, strange to say has never caused me a moment's anxiety.

Always healthy, although extremely frugal in its wants, it is easily catered for. My own mixture of soft food, fruit and a few mealworms, is its daily diet, exactly the same as the remainder of my soft-bills feed upon. Readers may feel inclined to think that the *Calliste cayana* is better looked after and has more attention and luxuries than the others, but it is not so, as he fares just the same and occupies a cage in the same unheated room. When I received him from Mr. Page, he was, to use his own words "as hard as nails," and during its sojourn with me has seemed to improve daily. Full of vigour it is constantly on the move and I am certain that it would very soon fade if housed in too small a cage. It is kept in a box cage about 3ft. by 2ft. by 2ft. fitted with natural branches. Indeed all my cages and aviaries are so fitted, and to my mind this accounts, in a great measure, for the perfect condition of the feet of all my birds, there is not a single specimen in my collection with bad or sore feet. In the *Calliste cayana's* cage is kept a bath constantly, should he desire to have a dip, though he does not take to the water as freely as I should wish, but being an extremely shy bird, he may take advantage of my absence from the room to perform his ablutions. He possesses just that brilliant sheen upon his feathers that forms such a finish to a fine specimen, and I have an idea that this is due solely to the soft food, which appears to bring them along naturally into splendid condition and keep them so.

With regard to song, its soft, prolonged yet sweet note can hardly dignify the term singing, yet it is very pleasant to the ear. Its call note is crisp and shrill.

I am hoping that readers of these few remarks will have the pleasure of seeing this living gem, as it was added to my collection with the sole intention of exhibiting it at our leading shows, feeling that such a rare specimen should be seen by all lovers of bird life, and not kept in a private collection to be enjoyed only by its possessor or a few local friends.*

By W. T. Page, F.Z.S.

This fine species was first introduced to aviculture by our esteemed member Mr. E. W. Harper, who imported a pair ♂ and ♀, in July of last year, these being the first living specimens to reach this country. Unfortunately, I did not purchase the pair at once, and shortly after I heard from Mr. Harper that while he was attending to the birds, the female had escaped from its cage and disappeared through the open window; a most annoying and unfortunate mishap, especially with so rare a species and the fact that the ♀ was in much the better condition.

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* [I fear our esteemed member is rather reproaching me for not exhibiting, but just looking after my birds, making notes and my editorial duties, so fills up my little leisure that I don't feel very guilty—we each have a place to fill, one cannot do everything and the united result makes a whole. It was solely because I could not find time to exhibit it, that I reluctantly consented to part with this lovely species. Ed.]

The male bird had been badly pecked during the voyage to this country, in fact the nape, back of neck, and part of upper back was plucked so bare that it looked doubtful as to whether the feathers would be renewed. However, eventually the desire to possess it over-rode all scruples and it came into my possession in August 1907 and remained with me till May 1908, when it passed into the collection of our esteemed member Mr. O. Millsum. Unfortunately, when I saw the ♀ at Mr. Harper's I omitted to take any notes of its plumage, but so far as I remember it I think Mr. Harper's specimen was a little darker in hue, than the figure* on the plate. No artist, whatever his ability, can do justice to the major portion of the genus *Calliste* and certainly fine and correct as Mr. Goodchild's drawing is, it is not anything like so brilliant as the living bird.

DESCRIPTION : Adult male : Top of head shining rufous-ochreous; general body colouring golden ochreous ; facial patch round eyes and over ear-coverts black ; back and rump greenish ; wings and tail black, broadly margined on outer-webs with brilliant bluish-green ; larger wing feathers have tips and inner webs margined with brown ; throat and breast rich glossy lilacine; abdomen greyish-lilacine ; beak blackish ; legs and feet greyish-brown. Total length $4\frac{3}{4}$ inches, tail $1\frac{1}{2}$.

Adult female : Differs from the male. General body colouring greyish-ochreous, washed on the crown with rufous and on the breast with bluish ; wings and tail black, with olive green margins ; facial patches blackish.

For the first few weeks of its stay with me I feared it would not grow a feather on the back of its neck, though those on the upper back were speedily reproduced, but it soon rallied and in about two months all bare areas were covered ; after this it went almost immediately into the moult, which it successfully passed through, and was then a spectacle of living beauty.

It received my usual treatment, viz., a roomy flight $4\frac{1}{2} \times 2\frac{1}{4} \times 3\frac{1}{2}$ feet high, branches and food vessels so arranged as to force it to take exercise, and my usual diet of soft food, ripe fruit *ad lib.*, at least 6 mealworms daily, and lettuce as green food. During the 9 or 10 months it remained with me, it never ailed at all, not even when in poor plumage, and I should certainly class it as a very robust species. The greenhouse-birdroom in which it passed the winter was rather damp, and only had a small oil-stove burning during the very coldest nights. Its demeanour was certainly cheerful, even during dull winter ; it sang all throug' the cold weather and and was fit indeed, when I reluctantly yielded to our member's persuasions and let him have it, being principally influenced by the fact that but few would see it if it remained with me, and that with its new owner it will visit the principal Shows during the coming season. Before leaving these general remarks I should say that the plate but faintly indicates the rich purplish-blue of the breast, the hues of which change with every fresh position assumed.

---

* ♀ Painted from British Museum skins.

Our esteemed member Mr. E. W. Harper, in response to my request, has kindly sent the following notes:—

> "I brought a pair of these birds home with me from British Guiana to England "last year; but the hen unfortunately escaped at Bedford. She may be at large now for "anything I know.
>
> "The cocks are very pugnacious towards each other in captivity, clutching with "beak and claw and rolling on the floor in a murderous embrace.
>
> "The hens are less brightly coloured than their mates.
>
> "I once had a nest containing half-fledged young and also the two parents brought "to me by a mulatto bird-catcher. The nest was made of bark with which were inter-"woven pieces of cotton-wool. It was built in a forked branch about the thickness of "one's little finger. The native name of this species is "Buck-tongue Sackie." I have "kept 15 or 16 o these birds at different times during my stay in British Guiana.
> "E. W. H."

Habitat: Apparently very common in British and French Guiana. I cannot agree with Mr. Millsum as to the name Black-cheeked being inappropriate, it appeals to me as being specially happy, and though mostly is dangerous to alter names, personally in this instance I think it justifiable and Mr. Harper's choice a very apt one.

It is very doubtful if the Greater Rufous-headed is entitled to specific distinction, though it is recognised as *C. cyanolœma*. It is similar to *cayana*, and differs only in slightly increased size and the richer hue of some of the colour areas.

Aviary Birds I have met in their Natural State.

By DOUGLAS DEWAR, I.C.S.

(*Continued from page* 108).

II. BULBULS.

India is the land of Bulbuls. No fewer than fifty-one species are described in "The Fauna of British India." To these Major Magrath has recently added yet another. Several of these species have found their way into aviaries in England. The majority of Bulbuls are rare birds of limited distribution. Two genera (*Molpastes* and *Otocompsa*), however, are spread all over India and are everywhere abundant; at least one form being found in every garden in India. I shall, therefore, confine myself chiefly to Bulbuls belonging to these genera.

The Molpastes Bulbul is a bird about half as large again as a Sparrow, but having a longer tail. The head is black and is marked by a short thick crest. In some species there is a white patch on each cheek. Under the tail there is a conspicuous patch of feathers which is crimson in some species and yellow in others. The remainder of the plumage is brown, but each feather is margined with creamy white, so that the bird is marked by a pattern not unlike the scales of a fish. The illustrations facing page 296 in "Bombay Ducks," which are reproductions of photographs taken by Captain Fayrer, I.M.S., give an excellent idea of *Molpastes hæmorrhous* and *Otocompsa fuscicaudata*. The Molpastes Bulbuls are distributed all over India, Burma and China, and each local race has peculiarities of its own, so that ornithologists have described nine or ten Indian species of Molpastes, but the differences which distinguish some of these so-called species are so slight that I am inclined to consider the various forms races rather than species.

At the meeting points of these "species" we come across Bulbuls which do not correspond with any of the described species. Such forms are the result of the interbreeding of two or more local races.

For all practical purposes there are but two Indian species of Molpastes—the Red-vented Bulbuls and the Yellow-vented and White-cheeked Bulbuls, which may be called respectively *M. hæmorrhous* and *M. leucogenys*. The habits of the all Red-vented Bulbuls are similar. They are sprightly, active birds, continually on the move. They frequent gardens and low jungle. They go about in pairs and probably mate for life. They twitter in the most cheery manner almost without intermission, but they can scarcely be called songsters, for to use the words of Mr. E. H. Aitken they cannot sit down and compose a song. They feed upon both insects and seeds. Mr. Finn has proved by experiment that Bulbuls will eat almost any kind of insect, even those which are supposed to be warningly-coloured. The White-cheeked species are very destructive to gardens, since they devour buds, blossoms, peas, and soft fruits.

Bulbuls construct neat, cup-shaped nests, of the pattern invariably figured on Christmas cards. They build, as often as not, in the most exposed situations. The Croton plants which are grown in pots in the verandahs of many bungalows are very favourite nesting sites. Rose bushes, too, are popular. Mr. William Jesse records the building of a nest on a rafter in a bungalow verandah. Colonel Butler once found a nest "inside an inhabited bungalow upon the top of a door leading out of a sitting room; the door was open and the bolt at the top had been forced back, and it was between the top of the door and the top of the bolt that the nest rested. The old bird entered the building by passing first of all through the lattice work of the verandah and then through a broken window pane."

A pair of Bulbuls once built a nest in my greenhouse at Gonda. (In India greenhouses are constructed of wooden lattice work, not of glass). Among the fronds of a fern growing in a hanging basket did those unsophisticated birds construct their nest. Every time the fern was watered the sitting bird, nest and eggs received a shower bath! Notwithstanding this, those eggs actually yielded young Bulbuls!

In consequence of the exposed situations in which the nurseries of Bulbuls are placed many of the eggs and young birds fall victims to Lizards, Crows, and other creatures which prey upon young birds. Notwithstanding this Bulbuls flourish like the green bay tree.

Three eggs are usually laid. They are pink, heavily blotched with brownish red. The nesting season is from February to August. As is usually the case, the birds in South India nest earlier in the year than do those in the North.

Red-vented Bulbuls are often kept as pets both by Europeans and natives of India. More charming pets it is impossible to have. Unfortunately their diet is largely insectivorous, so that they cannot be fed on seed. A young Bulbul I kept used to fly on to my shoulder whenever it saw me, and open its mouth, flutter its wings and twitter, which was its way of demanding food. It would insist on using my penholder as a perch, and as my handwriting which, at its best, has been compared to cuneiform hieroglyphics, was not improved by an excitable little bird hopping up and down the penholder, I was obliged to shut the Bulbul up in a cage while I was writing: it used to resent this and did not hesitate to tell me so!

Natives of India keep Bulbuls for fighting purposes. These birds are not caged but are tied to a cloth-covered perch by a piece of fine twine attached to the leg of the captive.

The Otocompsa Bulbuls, commonly known as Hill Bulbuls are most alluring birds, being exceedingly sprightly editions of the Red-vented species.

Their most striking characteristic is the perkiest of crests, which terminates, like Mr. Punch's cap, in a forwardly-directed point. The crest gives the bird a very saucy air. The wings and tail are dark brown. Under the tail there is a crimson patch, so characteristic of Bulbuls. Just below each eye there is a similarly coloured but much smaller patch of long crimson feathers, whence the proper English name of the bird—the Red-whiskered Bulbul. The lower part of the cheek is white and is divided off from the breast by a thin black line. The white breast is, in its turn, separated from the greyish underparts by a broad black necklace or collaret. Ornithologists divide the Red-whiskered Bulbuls into two species—*Otocompsa emeria ;* the Bengal Red-whiskered Bulbul and *O. fuscicaudata*, the Southern Red-whiskered Bulbul. The former occurs in Northern India and the latter in the South. The Northern variety is distinguishable from the Southern variety by having white tips to its feathers and the dark necklace interrupted in the middle.

Just as there are *Molpastes* with a yellow instead of a crimson patch of feathers under the tail, so is there an *Otocompsa* with yellow under parts. This is the commonest Bulbul in the Himalayas, and is known as *Otocompsa flaviventris*, or the Black-crested Yellow Bulbul.

The Southern Red-whiskered Bulbul is the common Bulbul of all the hill-stations of S. India, which it enlivens by its cheery song. The habits of the *Otocompsas* are those of the *Molpastes*.

No account of the Indian Bulbuls would be worthy of the name if it did not include *Pycnonotus luteolus*, the White-browed Bulbul, a bird which is abundant in every Madras garden and hedgerow. This differs so greatly in appearance from the Bulbuls already described that it is difficult to believe that it belongs to the same family. It possesses none of the smartness which characterises them. The crest is lacking, so is all bright colouring, unless the pale yellow patch under the tail comes under this category.* The general hue of the plumage is dull olive green. The lower parts are lighter than the back which is tinged with rufous. The wings and tail are brown. There is a broad and conspicuous white eyebrow, whence the English name of the bird. Despite its external unlikeness to the *Molpastes* and *Otocompsas* its habits are those of these latter. A merrier little bird does not exist. Every few seconds it bursts into snatches of boisterous but sweet song. The bird literally bubbles over with melody. It does not show itself much in the open. It is one of those creatures that are heard rather than seen. I have never observed it on the ground. It seems to spend all its time in low bushes. Sometimes one sees the bird fly hurriedly across an open space, and no sooner has it disappeared into a bush than it sings a blythe little ditty, as though it were thankful to be once again under cover.

The breeding season of this species seem to last from June to September. The nest is of the ordinary Bulbuline type, but the White-browed Bulbul, unlike most of its brethren, takes great pains to conceal the whereabouts of its nursery. It lays three pinkish eggs with reddish brown blotches.

Another genus of Bulbuls which is worthy of mention is Hysipetes, which comprises the Black Bulbuls. These are dark grey or brown in hue with long forked tails and red bills. They have a small crest but are untidy looking birds. They go about, not in couples but, in flocks of considerable size, making a great deal of noise. They seldom, if ever, descend to the ground; they keep to the tops of lofty trees. They feed on fruit and on the nectar of flowers of Rhododendron trees. They are found only in hilly regions and so can scarcely be included among birds that dwell in the plains of India. I mention them as evidence of the multiformity of the Bulbul family.

Let me in conclusion say a few words about the Green Bulbuls of India. According to Oates these birds are not Bulbuls, nor, indeed very nearly related to them. He, therefore,

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* Nevertheless it is far from meriting the designation plain; Mrs. Warren Vernon has a fine male which though lacking bright colouring is a really handsome bird. It is also a fine songster, the notes being very pure and flute-like.—Ed.

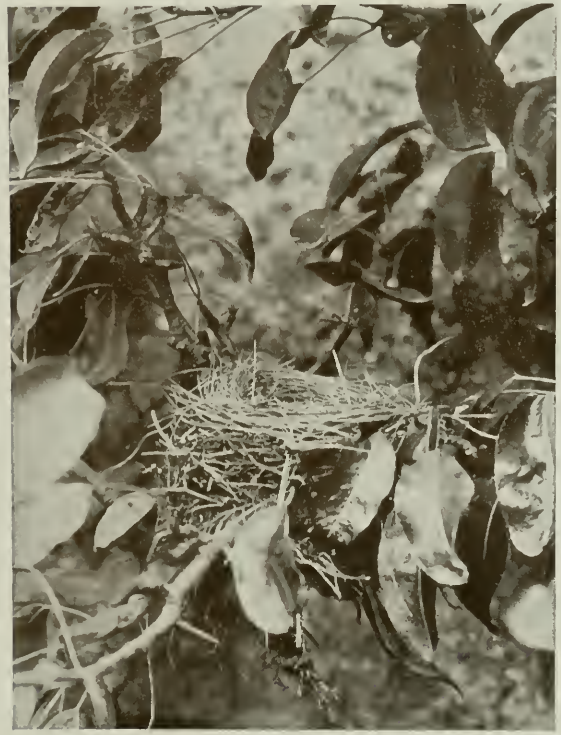

Photo. by E. O. Page.

NEST OF GREY-NECKED SERIN.

Photo. by E. O. Page.

NEST OF MEALY REDPOLL.

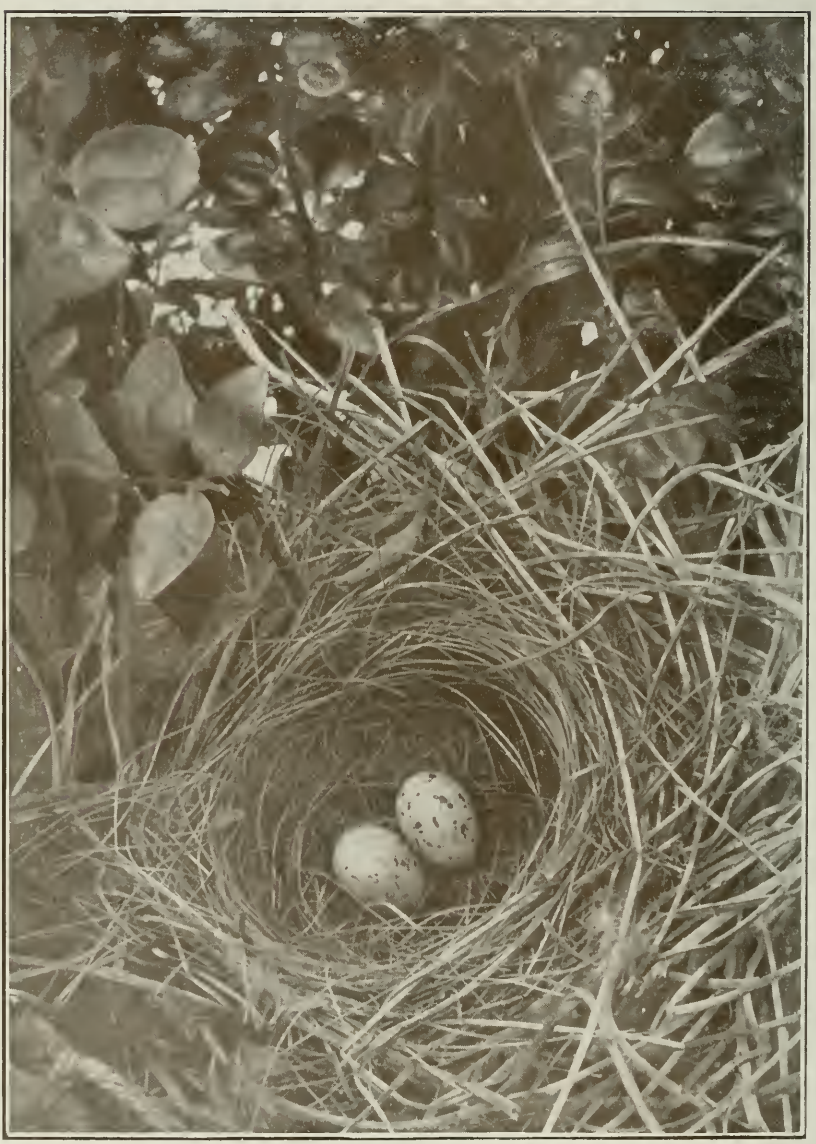

Photo. by W. E. Teschemaker, B.A.

NEST AND EGGS OF CIRL BUNTING.

refuses to call them Bulbuls, and designates them as Chloropses. These are about the same size as Molpastes Bulbuls, but arrayed in beautiful bright green plumage. Unlike the Bulbuls proper the hen differs more or less from the cock in appearance. They are strictly arboreal in habits, and go about either singly or in pairs. They feed chiefly on insects.

* * *

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Nesting of the Cirl Bunting.

(*Emberiza cirlus*).

By W. E. TESCHEMAKER, B.A.

When I recently wrote some account in *Bird Notes* of the habits of the Cirl Bunting, I said that it had always been one of my ambitions to breed this species. I am now able to give some details of its nesting in my aviary this summer.

I began the season with two males and three females but, after the males had each selected partners, I drafted out the remaining hen. The first to go to nest was the old hen which had been in the aviary for three years and could be easily recognised by her much brighter colouring, for, as with the Yellowhammer, this species seems to increase in beauty with increasing age. I found her sitting on the 13th of April in a well-built nest in a box shrub on two eggs. A photograph of this nest is reproduced in this issue, and is interesting I think because it shows how very close an imitation of the type of nest usually built by this species in a state of freedom my birds were able to produce with the limited supply of material at their disposal. For the usual horse hair lining they have substituted very fine grass.

We had to disturb the hen a good deal as we were making some addition to the aviary just at the very place she had chosen but, although very nervous at first, she gradually acquired confidence and finally not even the use of a hammer within a few feet would cause her to leave the nest. Just as the eggs were due to hatch the hen was put off her nest one night by a cat which had in some way managed to make its way into the new division we were putting up, and this was the more annoying because subsequent examination showed that one of the eggs was chipped and would have hatched in a very few hours.

However, by the 7th of May this same hen had built another nest in a more secluded part of the aviary, in a Cupressus, and laid three eggs. I left home on the 17th May on my annual bird-trip (which this spring was chiefly devoted to the Montagu Harrier, the Short-eared Owl and the White Wagtail) and in fourteen days covered a thousand miles by rail and steamer and one-hundred-and-fifty on foot. On my return I was informed that three young had left the nest, but only one was to be seen, the supply of insect food having, as usual in my absence, been allowed to run rather short.

In about a week the same hen again laid three eggs in the same nest. It seems to be the habit of this species for the female to undertake the entire duty of incubation, during which period she rarely leaves the nest even for a few minutes as she is most assiduously fed by the male. The latter is most careful not to reveal the situation of the nest, approaching it by a circuitous route and only after seeing that the coast is clear. To give some idea of the quantity of insect food required I may mention that on one occasion I saw the male help himself to forty-nine fresh ants' eggs and then carry off as many more as he could possibly hold in his beak to the hen.

The young of this species in their first stage are densely covered with blackish-grey down. The feathers first appear on the back and crown and at this stage they look darker than the parents.

On leaving the nest they completely disappear for a few days, concealing themselves in the thickest covert of the aviary and, as they are very silent, their position can only be conjectured from watching the direction the parents take when carrying food to them. However, as soon as they acquire the full use of their wings they may be seen basking in the sunniest corner of the aviary and generally on the ground. Their plumage by this time will have become a uniform light grey with dark brown striations, the young males showing just a tinge of buff in the superciliary streak, but no trace of the dark throat marking of the adult male. The two outer tail feathers are white for the lower half of their length, and the next pair of feathers are just tipped with white. These three young Cirls did remarkably well. Two are alive to-day; the third I brought into the house to make some notes on its plumage and, being called away to attend to something, I placed it in a cage with a Crested Lark, and was much grieved to find on my return in half an hour's time that the latter had attacked and killed it. They are delicate birds and require warmth and abundance of insect food for fully a month after leaving the nest.

I found it necessary to remove the other male as he was a good deal driven about by the male of the breeding pair, though there was no actual fighting. After the former had been removed the latter, sitting one day on an apple tree close to the aviary, saw his own reflection in the glass front of the latter and imagined he had discovered his old antagonist. It was most amusing to see him attacking the glass with much ferocity and he would continue to do so for an hour at a time until I was at last compelled to paste some brown paper over the glass to prevent him from wasting his time and neglecting his family.

Even this measure of success did not satisfy this wonderful old hen, who built a fresh nest and laid two more eggs, and, on the latter being removed, built a fifth nest and laid one egg. Altogether she laid eleven eggs and reared six young.

And now, having succeeded after four years' effort in producing some young Cirl Buntings, I have scratched the name of this species off my list. One adult pair I have given away to one of our members, the Zoological Society have accepted the young birds; and the old pair in a few days time, when they have quite completed their moult, will be released and will spend an honourable old age in a well-earned freedom. I claim that one great advantage which our indigenous species possess over imported species, from the aviculturist's point of view, is that at any time one can release them. In June 1907 I released a hen Blackcap suffering from an eye disease which is generally fatal to birds in a state of captivity, having first marked her with a metal ring. Two months later I saw the bird in my garden in perfect health and condition.

Next season, if the Fates allow, I hope to try my hand at breeding the Lapland and the Corn Bunting. The more, however, I see of our English Buntings the more convinced I am that they require special care and special treatment. It is not enough to keep them in a large aviary with a regular daily supply of insectivorous food for, being naturally of a shy disposition, they allow other and bolder species to secure the whole of the latter and consequently one will probably lose a large proportion of Buntings in the moult. I find that the only certain method of moulting them is to bring them into the house and moult them in large flight cages, either singly or not more than two together, with an abundant supply of mealworms.

The Nesting of Black-headed Sibias.

(*Malacias capistrata*).

By Mrs. E. Warren Vernon.

I have already described the birds in a previous issue; they have done well with me and were in perfect condition when building commenced. They had a roomy garden aviary to themselves, well screened from curious eyes, yet as will be seen, complete success—that is, the rearing of the young up to the point of being able to fend for themselves—did not crown their efforts. Building commenced on June 12th and the nest was completed two days later. The nest was constructed of hay—very deep—in the branches against wire netting facing west. Two eggs were laid a little shorter than a Blackbird's, pale blue in colour with brown markings. The first egg was laid on June 22nd, and the second on the 23rd; incubation was commenced on the 24th. The hen sat very steadily and was fed by the cock on the nest.

First egg hatched July 6th.

Second egg hatched July 7th.

The fledgelings were blind and of a deep red brown, quite naked, no down being visible.

The last hatched fledgeling died on July 12th, only living six days. The other throve and appeared to be a very healthy youngster, the quills appeared on the seventh day and on the tenth day the colours of the plumage were plainly visible; on the twelvth day when it died it was in every respect the same in colouring as its parents. There was no apparent reason for its untimely decease, it appeared all right in the morning, but was dead at mid-day. It was well nourished and appeared very robust. The parent birds fed it from the crop, entirely on mealworms, only taking fruit and the insectile mixture for their own sustenance; they had gentles and live ants' cocoons, but only as aforestated fed their young on mealworms. The weather was very wet and during that time the cock bird mostly sat beside his mate to assist her to shelter the young.

[The wet weather was most probably the cause of this disappointing failure, several of the days during this period being very cold, especially so as following a very hot dry period. It is these sudden changes from one extreme to the other that are responsible for many annoying losses.—ED.]

Fecundity of Yellow Budgerigars, etc.

By CAPT. A. PERREAU.

On reading over the "Editorial" on this subject, see *Bird Notes*, Vol. VI., No. 11, p. 342, I thought I would like to look up the actual numbers from my records. I fancy the numbers given in most cases in my letter were rough, and I was rather surprised to find them so much understated. I give a few cases of prolific birds. Many aviculturists will envy me my advantage in climate, but I would remind them that I have other disadvantages, some quite obvious, but mostly small not-worth-putting-on-paper ones which, when combined, form the chief obstacle to successful aviculture in India. I would also point out that they see things at my cheeriest.

My records may at times appear conflicting, for I keep up two books. My nesting record ignores birds after they have become independent, and what I may call my market book is apt to ignore all but those put apart for disposal. The numbers below are taken from the nesting book.

Y. Budgerigars.			Zebra Finches.		Meallie Rosellas.		Gouldians Black.	
1st	2nd	Left nest	No.	left nest.	No.	left nest.	No.	left nest.
7	3	Sept. 06.	5	May 05.	4	June 06.	6	Sept. 05.
7	5	Nov.	3	June.	6	Sept.	3	Dec.
8	—	Dec to Feb	4	July.	3	Oct.	5	Feb. 06.
8	5	Mar. 07.	3	Sept.	5	April 07.	——	
8	5	May.	5	Oct.	——		14	Total.
—	5	June.	4	Dec.	18	Total.		
10	—	July.	4	Feb. 06.				
—	5	Aug.	3	April.				
——	——		——					
48	28	Total.	31	Total.				

The two hen yellow Budgies have only one cock between them. The 1st hen took a rest of about three months after the ten lot and then began again with sevens and eights. The second hen's resting time was from end of November to February, she was very regular, five each time. Had her year been taken from March her total would have been larger. As a matter of fact, bar the first hen Budgie and the Gouldians the seasons above are just over the year from first egg to last young out of the nest. I was away from January 1906 to February 1907, but am practically certain the eight is correctly credited as No. 1 hen had eight eggs and No. 2 was resting when I left and rested at a similar time the next year. Both hens were going strong when I left for home in March 1908. The last broods before a rest were a trifle undersized and not too good a yellow, but were strong healthy little birds.

The Zebras were the sole occupants of their kind of my small old aviary, 14ft. by 4ft. by 6ft. high, but the aviary was chock-a-block with other species when they brought off their first brood, Rosellas, Red-rumps, Cockatiels, Budgies, Javas, Weavers and lots of small birds. In the beginning of January I unfortunately took out the hen by mistake. She was returned the next day but the young were forsaken.

The Meallies laid seven eggs each time, the last time the whole were hatched, the other times only six hatched. The casualties took place at an early age. The last brood were hardly up to the mark, but I think that was owing to the old cock turning nasty. The hen thought she had done her duty for the present, but the cock did not see it and began to harry the young, two of which did succumb soon after. Then he went for small birds and was hastily removed, not before he damaged several Gouldians and Zebras. I tried him with the old hen next door who adored him, and to whom he seemed rather partial while she was next door, but he nearly killed her, so I removed her. His ardour soon cooled and I gave him his old hen again and they lived happily without attempting to nest till the beginning of 1908, when I moved them about as I did not want them to start then.

The Gouldians had one failure to rear young after the first nest, but three successful broods leaves little to be desired, especially as one pair that year had quite half-a-dozen attempts, all without success. Two other pairs also did well, one getting eight (five and three), the other one lot of five, but this last pair was taken in after the second attempt and a beast of a musk rat injured the hen.

One pair of Green Budgies had thirty-four in the year and two other pairs were not far behind. The first pair sat wonderfully well, not deserting eggs when the nest was moved (with the hen inside) to the new aviary. Budgerigars may be common stuff, but the young are always interesting, though inclined to be mischievous. They certainly do fill up the aviary, but they pay the seed bills and a bit over, which is a great consideration, so on my return, rough new aviaries are going to be run up for their benefit.

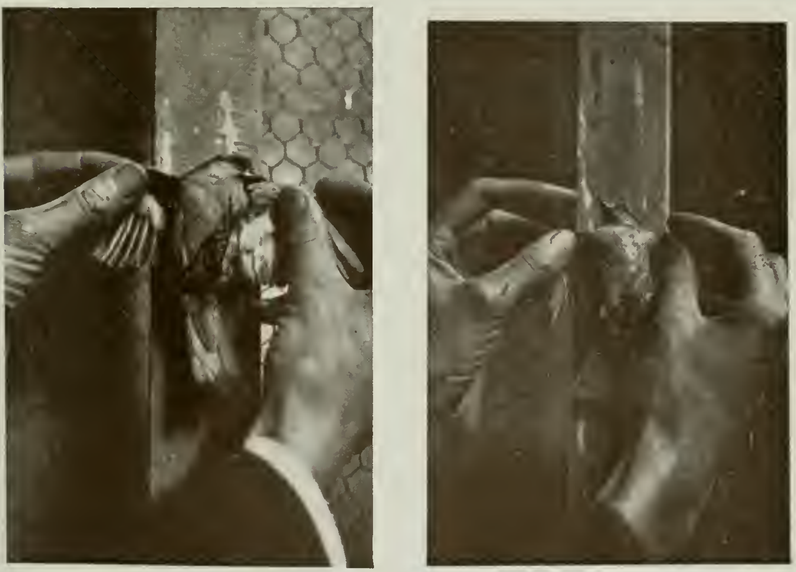
The Aviaries at Ringmore.

By W. T. Page, F.Z.S.

It has recently been my privilege, during a short stay in S. Devon, to have an opportunity of studying the aviaries and their inmates of our esteemed member Mr. W. E. Teschemaker. Admirable and natural as they are a description of them without the aid of a ground plan is a difficult matter; getting a photograph was a practical impossibility, that is to give any idea of their scope, fittings and extent. They entirely cover the area of a small walled-in garden, and consist of two or three main aviaries which are centrally situated and a number of smaller ones ranged round them; there are no passages between the respective aviaries, but they open one into the other. The fittings and arrangement, that is apart from the lack of passages between the various aviaries, are all that could be desired, and the nesting receptacles are many and various. Much ingenuity has been expended upon them to secure the best, both for the birds, and for ease of observation as opportunity offers. Speaking generally, the first thing that struck me was the freshness and amount of growing trees, shrubs and undergrowth that was present in aviaries of some years standing. Mr. T. has managed to secure this by limiting the number of birds he keeps (for instance he has only about twenty birds more than myself and *ten times the space!*) and by personal observation, especially of new arrivals, destructive birds being promptly removed to quarters where the trees, etc. are of a nature that few birds will touch or where their depredations can be periodically renewed. Again, successful as Mr. T. has been in breeding rare species, I marvelled that these successes had not been much greater, such is the amount of cover and space provided for the birds; I think this fairly illustrates the difficulty there is in inducing many species, not so much to get them to construct a nest or lay eggs, but to rear the young to the point of their being able to fend for themselves.

The main aviaries have well-lighted shelters attached to them, these shelters being provided with a service of hot water pipes. One shelter which is kept for new arrivals and fragile species never falls below 65 or 70°, and I understand serves its pur-

A GLIMPSE OF THE AVIARIES AT RINGMORE.



Photos by E. O. Page.

CINNAMON TREE SPARROWS

Adult ♀

Young ♂ showing black bib in nesting plumage.

pose very successfully. Having had the privilege of examining these natural aviaries I am conscious of the extreme poverty of this description, but I hope the few photos we were able to get and which are herein reproduced will in some measure compensate for this. The area of the flights is about 55 by 50 feet, and that of the covered house or shelter 17 by 13 by 11 feet high.

British birds are a feature in these aviaries, many of which have nested with varying success. The section consists of Cirl, Corn, Lapland and Ortolan Buntings; Shore and Crested Larks; Marsh and Crested Tits; Blackcaps, Ring Ouzels, Redwings, Nuthatches, Rock and Meadow Pipits, Mealy Redpolls, etc.

The Foreign Section contains among others the following: Blue-bearded Jays, Magpie, Superb and Scarlet Tanagers, Red-whiskered Bulbuls, South American Grosbeaks (very rare and not yet identified), Hooded Siskins, Red-headed Buntings (*E. rutila*), Giant Whydahs, Blue Grosbeaks, Pelzeln's Saffron Finches, Himalayan Siskins, Himalayan Goldfinches, Cinnamon Sparrows, Jerdon's Accentors, Cape and Peaceful Doves, Pink-browed Rose-finches, Sulphury Seed-eaters, Sprossers, Scaly-crowned Finches, Guttural Finches, Rock Sparrows, various Serins, etc. make up a very interesting, varied and uncommon collection.

NESTING NOTES: Records of these have been given from time to time in *Bird Notes*, and in this paper I can only briefly pass a few of them in review.

Peaceful Doves (*Geopelia tranquilla*): After several abortive attempts two young have been successfully reared, and at the time of my visit were flying strongly and fending for themselves. The nest was built in the branches of a tree, and incubation lasted 17 days. This I think to be a first record for this country, but I have been unable as yet to make an extended search.

Jerdon's Accentors: One of two pairs of birds brought over by our esteemed member Capt. Perreau; this brief note must record a success and a tragedy. After several unsuccessful efforts and choosing several nesting sites, one young one was successfully hatched out, it was very strong on the wing, and within a day or two of looking after itself, when it was hopelessly injured, either by a mouse, or dashing itself against the netting, or by some larger bird; the lower mandible hanging quite loose; there was not the slightest chance of recovery. It was a most disappointing mishap, and I consider Mr. T. is entitled to the record of breeding this species for the first time in the United Kingdom, as there is not the slightest doubt that but for this unfortunate accident the young bird would have been fully reared, it being very strong on the wing when the mishap occurred.

Giant Whydahs (*Chera procne*): This was a very fine specimen, and Mr. T. is also the fortunate possessor of a female; two nests have been built but no eggs have been laid. On more than one occasion Mr. Teschemaker has had to transfer them to other quarters, owing to their interference with smaller birds which were nesting. In a large aviary there are few finer spectacles than this species disporting itself amid the growing trees and dashing across the open spaces.

Photo. by E. O. Page.
GIANT WHYDAH.

Pelzeln's Saffron Finches (*Sycalis pelzelni*): Three young have been reared of this uncommon species: this also I believe to be a first time in this country, though this species has been crossed with the common Saffron (*S. flaveola*). At the time of my visit the young were quite independent of their parents. As to plumage, this was pale olive-brown, striated with darker brown; without any trace of yellow or green.

Cinnamon Tree Sparrow: Brought over this spring by Capt. Perreau, a pleasingly and handsomely marked species. These have duly nested and two very strong young birds are fully reared and quite independent of their parents. An interesting fact is brought to light, not before noted I believe, viz., that the young males have the black bib distinctly indicated in the nestling plumage. The two photos here reproduced were taken with the object of illustrating this feature, but owing to the birds throwing their heads back and breasts forward, the bib or throat marking is but indifferently indicated.

Pink-browed Rose-finches (*Propasser rhodochrous*) have built, but no eggs have been laid and there appears to be no prospect of their doing anything this season. This species, that is, neither the pair in question nor yet the pair which I possess will touch any live insects.

Scaly-crowned Finches: These, though one was a strong singer, proved in the end to be two hens, after jointly occupying one nest and sitting closely for a time, then declared themselves by building separate nests and each laying a clutch of eggs.

Blue Grosbeaks (*Guiraca cyanea*) have nested and laid, but no young have been reared. The same applies to Grey-necked Serins. Green Avadavats nest annually in the main aviary, and it was a pretty and interesting sight to see the old pair with their two young, which, though able to fend for themselves, were still being fed by the old birds. The young are plain olive green birds without any of the barrings or striking plumage markings of the adult birds. Rufous-backed Mannikins (*Spermestes nigriceps*) must be numbered among those which have built, laid and hatched out young, of which only one left the nest, unfortunately this mysteriously disappeared while Mr. T. was away seeking opportunities of photographing the nests, etc., of our native birds. This was another "first on record" spoilt when success seemed certain.

Of the British birds, the Cirl Buntings* have nested and reared young, of which an account appears elsewhere in this issue from the pen of our esteemed member. Lapland Buntings, Mealy Redpolls* and Nuthatches have all nested this season but so far without result.

Mr. T's experience goes to show, that even with the most natural surroundings, the attempts far outnumber the actual successes; that the pursuit of aviculture, while full of interest and never growing stale, yet brings many disappointments, and also some compensation in the form of successfully breeding new and rare species, and seeing their life history gradually unfolded in its various stages.

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* See plates.

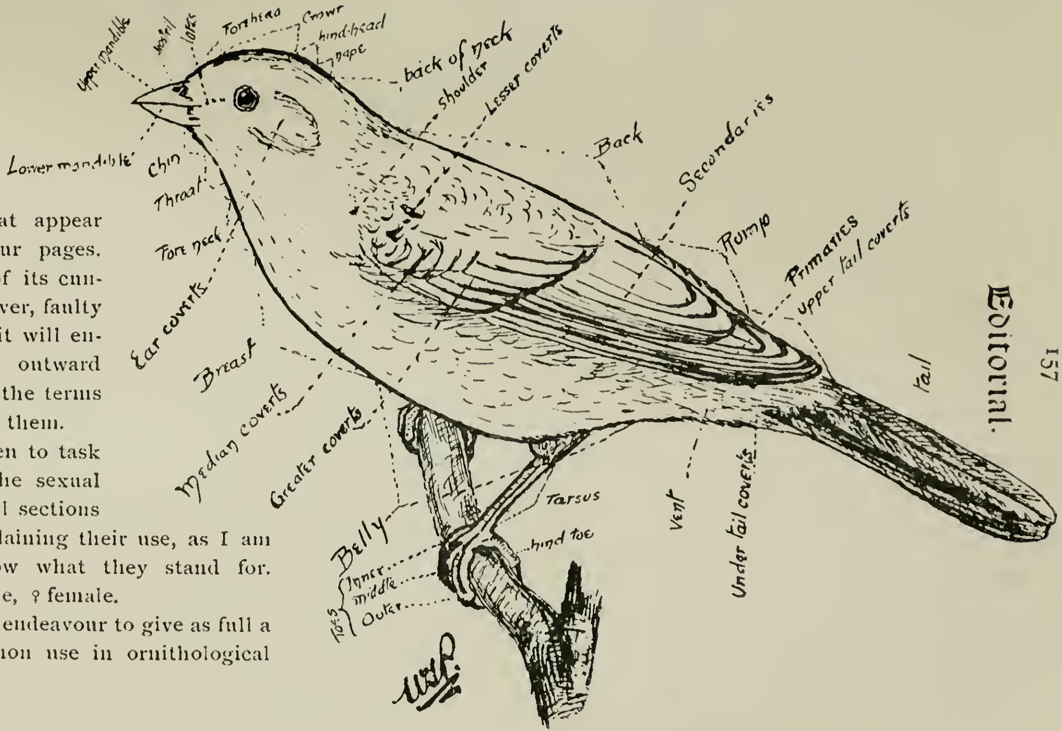
One of the most pleasing features of these aviaries was perhaps the family of Green Avadavats (*Stictospiza formosa*) as they flitted to and fro, separating and gathering together again; calling for food and being fed (how many of the most beautiful and chastely clad foreigners are numbered among those classed as common, because cheap and plentiful) was indeed a pretty sight, especially in the early mornings, as also was the watching of the minute and exquisitely beautiful Golden-breasted Waxbill (*Sporæginthus subflavus*). These two and also the Common Avadavat nest annually in these aviaries. Other well-known—so-called "common stuff"—to gladden the eye, were White Java Sparrows, Tri-colour and other Mannikins. Among the British birds, those which gave me the most pleasure to watch were the Marsh and Crested Tits, and the Nuthatch; this last was a well-coloured specimen, very fit, and specially interesting to watch as he slipped up and down the branches, going anywhere and everywhere but to the nest while you were watching, and it was the same with the hen.

The records for 1905, 6, 7 and 8 are as follows:—

Species partly bred (*i.e.* nest and eggs .	56
Bred and fully reared	36
Bred for first time in United Kingdom .	12

I hope that, later, Mr. Teschemaker will supplement this very indifferent account, with a paper from his pen, illustrated with diagrams, and also place on record in our pages much interesting data, connected with the various notes so brokenly passed in review herein. I can only in conclusion again express the hope that where the pen has failed the few photos here reproduced may succeed in indicating what a practical and well-arranged series of aviaries Mr. Teschemaker possesses, and to express the hope that much greater success may attend his efforts to breed new and rare species in the future than has been the case in the past.

Avian Terminology.


Upper mandible
nostril
lores
Forehead
Crown
hind-head
nape
back of neck
shoulder
Lesser coverts
Back
Secondaries
Rump
Primaries
upper tail coverts
tail
Lower mandible
Chin
Throat
Fore neck
Ear coverts
Breast
Median coverts
Greater coverts
Belly
Toes
Inner
middle
Outer
Tarsus
hind toe
Vent
Under tail coverts

I have had many requests for a diagram, that would enable even the tyro to intelligently read the descriptions of birds, that appear from time to time in our pages. My hand has lost much of its cunning with the pencil; however, faulty as the drawing is I think it will enable all to recognise the outward parts of birdy anatomy, by the terms popularly used to describe them.

I have also been taken to task for using in *Bird Notes* the sexual signs in common use by all sections of Zoologists, without explaining their use, as I am assured many do not know what they stand for. They are as follows:—♂ male, ♀ female.

In a later issue I will endeavour to give as full a glossary of terms in common use in ornithological literature, as possible.

NESTING NOTES: White eye-browed Wood Swallows (*Artamus superciliosus*). Our esteemed member, Mr. E. J. Brooks, has a pair of this species, with a brood of young which are being reared entirely on live food. This is a very rare occurrence, yet not entirely without precedent. In 1870 two of this species were bred in the London Zoo on July 2nd—one died on August 4th, and the other a day later of the same year. It is doubtful if they were then quite independent of their parents. Mr. Brooks' success is the first to occur in private aviaries.

NURSING A SICK MYNAH AND ITS SEQUEL: Details have reached me, and which I quote here as an instance of the care bestowed by many aviculturists upon their avian captives and pets, as well as being a useful record to others who may have birds in similar case. The bird, a Greater Hill Mynah, was nearly dead; to keep up the circulation when the bird was too exhausted to roost, it was placed on a hot water bottle, the treatment was effective and the bird's life saved. Now for the sequel: Though the bird has recovered and is quite able to roost, and does so all day, it will not rest at night without its hot water bottle, by the side of which it lies all night. Surely there is sufficient reason here to distinguish and appreciate comfort; many other equally striking cases might be quoted.

BREEDING OF PEACEFUL DOVES: As will be seen elsewhere, Mr. W. E. Teschemaker has bred this species and has now fully reared young flying in his aviary. Certainly I have not been able to make an extended search, but I know of no previous record of their having been bred in this country. If any member knows of such an occurrence will they kindly inform me of same? Otherwise a Certificate will be awarded Mr. Teschemaker as a first record for the United Kingdom.

The same as to Pelzeln's Saffron Finch, unless any member knows of this species having been previously bred, a Certificate will be awarded in this case also.

NOTE: Owing to pressure upon our space many interesting nesting notes and articles have had to be held over till next issue.

Correspondence.

LONGEVITY OF CAGE BIRDS.

SIR,—I have just had the misfortune to lose the oldest inhabitant of my bird room—a Red-crested Cardinal.

Some years ago a friend of mine had five or six Cardinals brought over for him privately. My friend told me they all died but one, with a hole in their backs, so the survivor must have had some canabalistic tendencies. He kept him eight years, and then gave him to me. I have had him eleven years, so I know for a fact he has been caged for nineteen years. Occasionally he failed to grow any feathers on his head, but always had an exceptional crop the following year, but for this he was always well, though his legs showed great age.

The present Father of the room is the White-capped Tanager that Mr. Swan gave me in 1903, before that date he had been in this country about ten years. S. M. TOWNSEND.

THE ILLUSTRATION FUND AND "OUR MAGAZINE."

SIR,—I gather that £8 is required to pay off last year's deficit on the *Bird Notes Magazine*, this I have much pleasure in sending you.

I shall be very glad to, either, guarantee with some others the sequence of monthly coloured plates in the Magazine for the current year, or, to join with others in promising a definite sum.

I quite agree with you that the quality of *Bird Notes* should not suffer from lack of funds, for, if the quality goes down, so will the Magazine and the Club. A MEMBER.

SIR,—I herewith enclose 5/- to the Illustration Fund. The members of the Club are greatly indebted to you, for the deep interest you have taken in the Magazine and having placed it upon such a sound basis. I trust before long the membership will have increased sufficiently to cover the expenditure, and to some extent relieve the management of anxiety. J. T. PORTEOUS.

SIR,—I am prompted to reply to your Editorial in the July issue of *Bird Notes*, re Our Magazine, and to condense my remarks as briefly as possible I will confine myself to the issues as they appear.

1. I should most decidedly favour the Progressive policy and continue our Magazine on its present scale. It would be a retrograde step to take, to condense or to lessen the attractions in any way.
2. Surely it would not be a very difficult matter to raise the wind to the extent of £25 amongst our members.
3. I should strongly oppose the suggestion that the Subscription be raised to 15/- as a most disastrous move in the wrong direction. It is not in common with any business enterprise; rather wait our opportunity and reduce it, so as to embrace every lover of bird-life, for after all there are hundreds who dearly love our feathered pets, yet only possessing a few common specimens, cannot afford to pay a big fee to become associated with aviculture and some of its keenest and best admirers.

The suggestion that all members send a subscription of 5/- is a good one, but after all it is only temporarily removing the difficulty. May I suggest a further and it may be also an additional one, which if adopted would relieve our worthy Editor of much worry, and anxiety which should really be borne by every member, and also give us a permanent financial strength, i.e. each member shall guarantee to nominate at least one new member before the close of the current year. This would immediately place us on the height we have been aiming for, would double our income and make us financially sound. Surely this is not a very difficult task, every member must know someone interested in his hobby; why not use one's persuasive influence in securing them as members?

I also suggest that every member is canvassed per post for their promise. I, at least, will start by promising that I will nominate a new member, and will also carry out the previous suggestion, before the close of this financial year. "Unity is strength," then let every one of us be determined to play our part and place our Club in a position to still retain its Magazine, at least at its present standard and as much better as finances will allow. O. MILLSUM.

SIR,—It is only necessary for the present rate of increase in our membership to continue for a few months to place the F. B. C. on a sound financial basis, with a Magazine second to none.

I feel sure there are hundreds of bird lovers who are unaware of the existence of our Society, who would gladly join if asked to do so.

I enclose P.O. for one guinea in furtherance of the "Progressive" policy and hope your efforts to maintain the present excellence of our Magazine will not receive a check.

R. SUGGITT.

SIR,—I think the letter, by our Editor, in last month's Magazine requires the careful consideration of all members of our Society. For myself I think it would be a great mistake, a very short-sighted policy, to lower the standard of our Magazine, as I feel sure that providing such good money's worth as it is at present, in a year or two by the increase of members our subscriptions will fully cover our expenditure; whereas if we produce a Magazine of only an inferior nature our membership cannot increase quickly, if at all.

I do not think it would be advisable to raise the subscription to 15/.

The deficit is not a serious matter if every member of the Society helps, though heavy if left to a few to pay, and I for one am quite willing to do my share towards it.

When members realise that for the moment they are getting their Magazine under cost price I think they will come to the rescue of our Treasurer and find the necessary funds for producing it in its present form. **William Bamford.**

Sir,—In answer to your queries in the July Magazine I would vote as follows :

1. Maintain the Magazine at present scale.
2. I am prepared to subscribe 10/- towards the liquidation of this debt.
3. Keep the Subscription as at present especially seeing that our membership in increasing so satisfactorily.

As a private member of the Club I am pleased to do my part in answering to the best of my ability your queries and also in complying with your request that each member shall do his or her best to liquidate our present outstanding liabilities so that we may go forward unhampered by any incubus.

I feel that it is not right that the rank and file should stand aside and remain apathetic, whilst, some are generous in their donations and others give not only money but time and thought to the best interests of our Club. We each have a responsibility in this matter, which is not altogether covered by our annual subscription.

In the July issue I see our Hon. Editor and Secretary refuses to charge the Funds with the cost of postage, etc., but enters the amount as a donation which is no less than £8 9s. 7d. Now whilst this is generous to the last degree, one cannot help feeling that as a Club we are imposing upon good nature. This ought not so to be.

We are each asked to give 5/- that the debt may be cleared; surely this is not a formidable matter This amount would not count if we were desirous of procuring a bird we had set our affections upon. Therefore I will willingly give 10/-, and I trust that a loyal response will be made to the appeal of our good Editor so that the present high standard of our Magazine may be continued. **W. T. Rogers.**

Sir,—I am certainly for the present "Progressive Policy" and consider it would be a grave mistake, let alone loss, if in any way the Magazine had to be cut down as regards its bulk or illustrations.

In preference to increasing the subscriptions, the proposal for all to subscribe 5/- to the Illustration Fund is much the best, particularly as there is such a steady increase and every sign that the Magazine will become self-supporting.

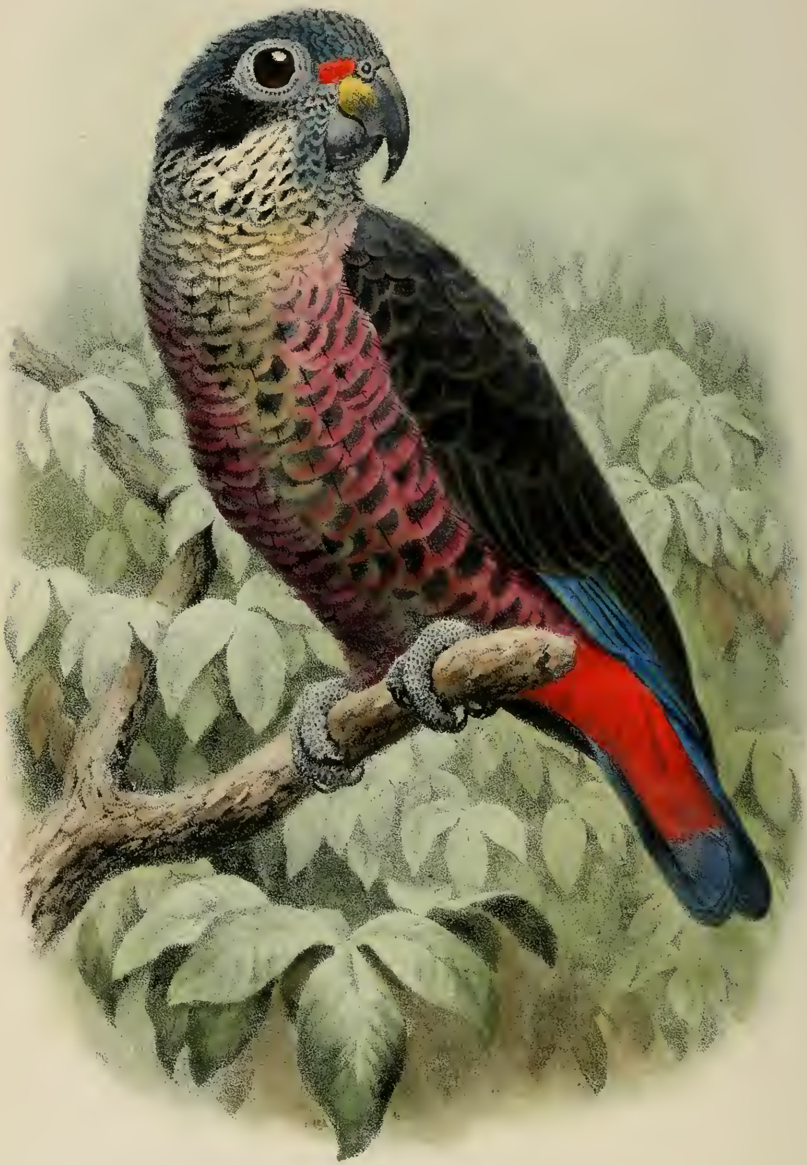
I shall be pleased. as a further help to give, with your approval, the following books for sale, to help the Funds :—*Bird Notes*, Vol. II; *Feathered Friends Old and New; Notes on Cage Birds*, 1889; and the unbound *Reports of United Foreign Cage Bird Society* for 1892-3; 1893-4 and 1894-5. (See advert. under Bird Market). **Nicholas S. O'Reilly.**

[In reference to the points raised in "Our Magazine," I wish to add briefly as follows :

1. That the question of supplementing our income by voluntary donations is only a *temporary one*, whilst our numerical strength is increasing.
2. That while of course in the immediate present, the points raised are of great importance to the welfare of the Club—*yet a new member is of infinite more value than a donation.*
3. That there is no accumulating debt, neither are there any liabilities, for the deficit, re last year's accounts has been cleared off; the amount asked for is to provide for this year's expenditure.

I may be permitted to thank the writers of above communications and also those who have written "not for publication" for their kindly expressed appreciation, and at the same time state that but for the request—"that if letter was published at all, it be published intact"—I should have eleminated the personal element therefrom. I trust I may be pardoned the query—"Are we as individual members each doing all we can to extend the membership and influence of the Club ?"—Ed.]

For Post-Mortem Reports see inset.



H. Goodchild, del. et lith. Huth, imp.

THE VIOLET OR DUSKY PARROT.

Pionus violaceus.

From a living specimen in the possession of Mrs. K. Leslie Miller.

All rights reserved]. [OCTOBER 1908.

BIRD NOTES:

— THE —

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

Notes on the Violet Parrot in captivity.

(*Pionus violaceus.*)

By Mrs. K. LESLIE MILLER.

It has been suggested to me by our Editor, that I should send a few particulars as to the habits and disposition of the Violet Parrot in captivity. I need hardly say that the one in my possession is a very handsome little parrot, because Mr. Goodchild's beautiful picture of her speaks for itself. My bird was brought over from British Guiana by our member, Mr. Harper, and has been with me now just over a year. I have always made a special pet of this bird and we are constant companions and very fond of each other indeed.

For the rest, I can say that she has a very excellent appetite, a most excruciating voice and the richest and softest of plumage ; most beautifully are the colours blended, and, when taking flight (as she often does) across a large sunny room, the word " Dusky " would not describe her at all. Mr. Goodchild has taken the greatest trouble to paint a faithful portrait of my pet and I hope to exhibit her in perfect plumage again this year.

Although quite healthy, this parrot is delicate, requiring a good deal of attention. She will not bathe ; but allows me to sponge her down and dry her on a soft towel ; she is then brushed and her toilet is finished for the day.

I give my parrots for staple food, a mixture of canary seed, paddy rice, dari and white millet and two dessert spoonful's of Capern's mixture a day, as well as fruit, nuts, cake and green food of sorts.

This diet is varied and regulated according to the condition of the bird, time of year, etc. I have never heard of a *Pionus* that talked ; but my bird makes herself understood and has the funniest of little ways. She is gentle as to temper ; but can bite smartly if frightened or jealous, and to hear her call for her toast when the maid brings in my breakfast in the morning is something to remember. However, she does not scream very often and is for the most part a quiet and lovable creature.

I do not know why I say "she," for I am not sure of the sex, except that there is something "hennish" both in the appearance and in the dainty wilful ways of the bird. This parrot never perches on my finger or wrist as my other birds do ; but always squats in my hands, in this way we go about the house or for a walk on the balcony to take the air.

I trust these few homely remarks may be of interest to those of our members who keep pet parrots and that someone with an abler pen than mine will give some particulars of the wild life, etc., of this beautiful bird.

Note : I have not found the *Pionus* family either dull or stupid as some authorities would have us believe. I have now two of this species, the other being *P. menstruus* and both are absolutely tame and most intelligent.

By W. T. Page.

I quite agree with Mrs. Miller that to call this bird dusky is most certainly a great misnomer, as will be seen from Mr. Goodchild's characteristic drawing, which is true to life and I consider one of his best efforts. It is a beautiful bird in every sense of the word, a bird with a refined sort of beauty that is difficult to describe. There are many *very* beautiful birds, the gorgeousness of whose beauty seems to literally strike you whenever you gaze upon them. It is not so with *violaceus* : its beauty is quiet, chaste, refined.

The Dusky or Violet Parrot is a native of Brazil ; a very rare bird in this country, only odd specimens coming to hand at fairly long intervals. But little appears to be known of its wild life. A minute description would occupy too much space, and with the plate before us such is scarcely needed—it must suffice to say that the general body colouring is an arrangment of blue- and violet-greys of varying shades, the feathers of the under surface having rosy margins and those of the sides of the neck whitish margins, the breast is washed purplish, the harmony of colouring being very soft and beautiful; lores, rose-red; primaries black, bordered with rich blue on the outer edges; tail purple; beak blackish, with the base of upper mandible bluish; legs and feet brownish-grey.

This species only requires to be more frequently imported to become popular, but at present both price and scarcity stand in the way. Perhaps, our esteemed member, Mr. Harper, who has imported most, if not all, the specimens which have reached this country during the past three years, and has kept this species in British Guiana will kindly tell us all he can of its wild life, etc., such notes would be of general interest and increase our knowledge of the life history of this charming but little known species.

Aviary Birds I have met in their Natural State.

By Douglas Dewar, F.Z.S., I.C.S.

(Continued from page 145).

III. INDIAN DOVES.

Seven species of Turtle Dove are found in India, of these three are widely distributed and exceedingly numerous in all localities in which they occur. They are the Spotted Dove (*Turtur suratensis*), the Little Brown Dove (*T. cambayensis*) and the Indian Ring-Dove (*T. risorius*).

In nearly every part of India one of these three species occurs and in most places two of them are found.

The Spotted Dove (easily recognisable by its spotted wings) is probably the most widely distributed, being the commonest dove in practically all parts of India where the climate is humid, but it appears to dislike dry localities, and is in consequence rarely, if ever, seen in the Punjab. In the drier parts of India it is replaced by the pretty Little Brown Dove, a smaller bird which has no spots on its plumage save a miniature black and white chess-board on each side of the neck. The third common species—the Indian Ring- or Collared-Dove—is found all over India and seems equally at home in dry and damp localities. It is distinguishable from the other two common doves by the narrow black band that forms a collar round the hind neck.

All these species have similar habits. All are exceedingly pugnacious, especially at the nesting season, which appears to last all the year round. I do not think there is a month in the year in which I have not come across a dove's nest containing eggs.

A poet has apostrophised the dove:—

"Crows have their time to build and larks
For breeding and connubial love,
And other birds to lay and hatch—but thou,
Thou hast all seasons for thine own, O dove!"

The Indian Tree Pie (*Dendrocitta rufa*), a relative of the Common Magpie, seems to be the particular object of the hatred of the dove. No sight is commoner in India than a pair of screaming doves chasing a Tree Pie and making vicious pecks at its back.

The "sketchiness" of the nest built by the dove has always proved a source of amusement to field naturalists. Eha describes it as two short twigs laid across two long ones; and it was, I think, Phil Robinson who said that a tolerable imitation of the nest can be made by upsetting a box of matches. Dozens of times have I seen the two white eggs showing through the floor of the nest. As a rule the nest is situated in a thorny tree within seven feet of the ground. The Little Brown Dove, however, frequently builds in verandahs on a ledge or in a creeper. One pair of these laid in succession six clutches of eggs in the verandah of my office at Lahore, The first nest was constructed on the rolled-up end of the *chik*—a curtain made of pieces of split bamboo tied together to act as a screen to keep the sun out of the verandah. When the hot weather came the *chik* was let down each day and this entailed the wreck of the nest; but, nothing daunted, the doves built a second nest which they balanced on the top of the hanging chik!

Mr. A. Anderson relates how a pair of Little Brown Doves built a nest on the guy ropes of the tent in which he was camping. The rope was at an angle of 45° with the horizontal, but thanks to the existence of a knot, the doves succeeded in balancing their nest on the ropes.

It is some years since I have been stationed at a place where Spotted Doves are common, and I cannot remember a case of one of these birds nesting in my verandah, but Mr. R. Thompson says of this species: "In their selection of sites for their nests these birds show very little intelligence, suiting themselves to the first place they find handy, often amongst old furniture in the verandah of a house, cornices of old buildings, low hedges and bushes, or even the lopped trunk of a tree, if a flat surface is left sufficient to place the nest on, and often in the most exposed situations, where the wretched birds are sure to pay the penalty of their imprudence." Seeing that the nest is almost invariably placed in open situations, one would naturally expect that the eggs would be coloured so as to be difficult to see; but they are pure white and so visible from afar. The result is that many are destroyed by Treepies, Crows, and other egg-sucking birds, but the pugnacity of the dove preserves many a clutch that would otherwise be destroyed. This, together with the large number of broods raised up in the year, accounts for the abundance of doves. It is to be remarked that there are but two eggs in the normal clutch. The smallness of the clutch is probably necessitated by the method of feeding the young when first hatched, that is to say by a secretion from the crop of the parent.

In order to give some idea of the abundance of doves in India, I may say that on one morning in April, as the result of a search lasting a couple of hours, among the trees growing on a canal bank, I came across no fewer than eighteen doves' nest, mostly those of *Turtur risorius*. In the course of a short railway journey one sees thousands of these birds sunning themselves on telegraph wires.

The habits of doves are not particularly interesting, at least to the field naturalist. Their plaintive "coo" grows exceedingly monotonous. It seems to lack expression and gives one the idea of being as mechanical as the discourse of a professional guide. There is, however, one pretty habit which doves have. In the early morning they are fond of flying up into the air for a distance of ten or fifteen yards, and then letting themselves drop with wings and tail expanded. I am inclined to think that this is not a courting display, though, as the birds breed all the year round, it is not really possible to say what are acts of courtship and what are not. The attitude which seems more directly connected with courtship is for the cock to puff himself out, bow down his head, and run along after the female.

* * *

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Lories and Lorikeets.

Loriidæ.

By E. J. BROOK.

There are no more beautiful or more interesting birds than the Lories and Lorikeets. They nearly all show great intelligence and become extremely tame, so much so, that it is no uncommon case to find specimens that can be quite safely trusted to fly quite loose outside the confines of their aviaries.

I have for a considerable time taken a great interest in the *loriidæ*, and at the present time possess a very considerable collection, numbering some thirty individuls, representing twelve different species. I think what made me go in for these birds in the first instance was being told that they could not be kept for any considerable time in confinement, and I certainly agree that that is the case if the feeding as recommended in some books on the subject is followed out.

My first Lorikeet was a pair of Blue Mountain, and having no experience they were fed on a dietary of stewed figs, sponge cake and dry canary seed; then came fits from which they recovered, and then I took another friend's advice and fed them on soaked seed on which they did fairly well for a time but always required careful watching and fairly frequent doses of magnesia.

My next attempt was with a pair of Varied Lorikeets and a pair of Violet-neck Lories, these were fed on bread and milk, and with careful watching did very well for a considerable time, but all died from the same cause, viz.: the milk curdling in the stomach owing to extreme acidity and thus causing death.

I then obtained privately a large collection of very rare specimens, amongst them three Black Lories, and one Black-winged Lory*(*Eos cyanogenys*) probably the only one ever seen alive in Europe. Naturally I was a bit anxious about their welfare and was perpetually racking my brains to think of a more suitable diet. Evidently the milk sop was the most suitable, but how to prevent the acidity was the questlon ; the milk sop was boiled and watered down but with every care an analysis of the excreta always showed a dangerous amount of extremely acid milk curd, some of the small specks of curd being very tough. Thinking out the problem one night I suddenly thought of barley water, and next morning I instructed my aviary man to mix a certain proportion with the sop, the result was most satisfactory and in a few days the excreta of every specimen in my aviaries were perfectly normal. For over a year now my Lories have given no more trouble or anxiety than the hardiest seed-eaters, and they are all in the most perfect condition.

This past summer I thought I was going to have some nesting successes, for a pair of Black-capped Lories nested three times always laying on the ground, but all the eggs proved clear. Also a pair of Red-collared Lorikeets, that I have had for over two years, nested four times with a similar result. The Black Cap Lories did not sit very well which may have accounted for the eggs not hatching, but the Red-necks sat very well indeed, so, as often happens in matters avicultural one must live in hopes.

Those people who have not kept tropical birds in aviaries often think it necessary to keep up a very high temperature and are greatly astonished when told that a high temperature is quite unnecessary and possibly harmful. The only Lories I have noticed feeling the cold at all have been the Varied Lorikeet and the Black Lories, and even these are quite comfortable at 45° to 50°; I do not like the temperature of the aviaries to fall below 40° or to rise above 55° in the winter time.

---

* Mr. Millsum has had one of this species since February.

About the hardiest birds I have got are four Yellow-streaked Lories (*C. scyntillatus*), and these, though coming from the hot mangrove swamps of New Guinea seem to care nothing for our winter cold, and were often seen sleeping in the outside part of their aviary on some of the most disagreeable days of last winter, but of course they were driven inside at night.

The most amusing Lories I have are the Blacks (*C. ater*). They are more like puppies than birds in their play, they roll about on the ground doing a regular rough and tumble, and when tired will as likely as not lie down on the ground to rest. They are absolutely tame and will play with anyone they know for long enough, but if you attempt to tease one of them the other two go for you straight.

A very brilliant spot in the aviaries is a compartment occupied by a pair of Yellow-backed Lories. Their next door neighbours are a pair of Green-billed Toucans, and the contrast between the scarlet of the Lories and the black of the Toucans is very striking.

In touching on the feeding of Lorikeets I ought to mention that I am not opposed to giving dry canary seed if they get milk sop as well.

[While it is quite clear that the temperature of London is more favourable than Ecclefechan for the keeping of Foreign Birds out of doors, yet I think it will be of general interest to state that in my outdoor aviary, a pair of Varied Lorikeets (*Ptilosclera versicolor*) have now been housed for four years, and that their condition, i.e. their general health, sleekness and tightness of plumage, could not possibly be surpassed. A pair of the uncommon Red-collared Lorikeet (*Trichoglossus rubritorques*) have occupied the same enclosure since July and I purpose leaving these out also. Mr. Brook's interesting and practical article on the treatment given to his fine and rare collection of *Loriidæ*, will I am sure be appreciated by all who keep these lovely birds. Acidity of the stomach has never affected the occupants of my cage and aviaries, but I have always at intervals given a little Mellin's food or Scotts' Emulsion in the milk sop, and for an ailing

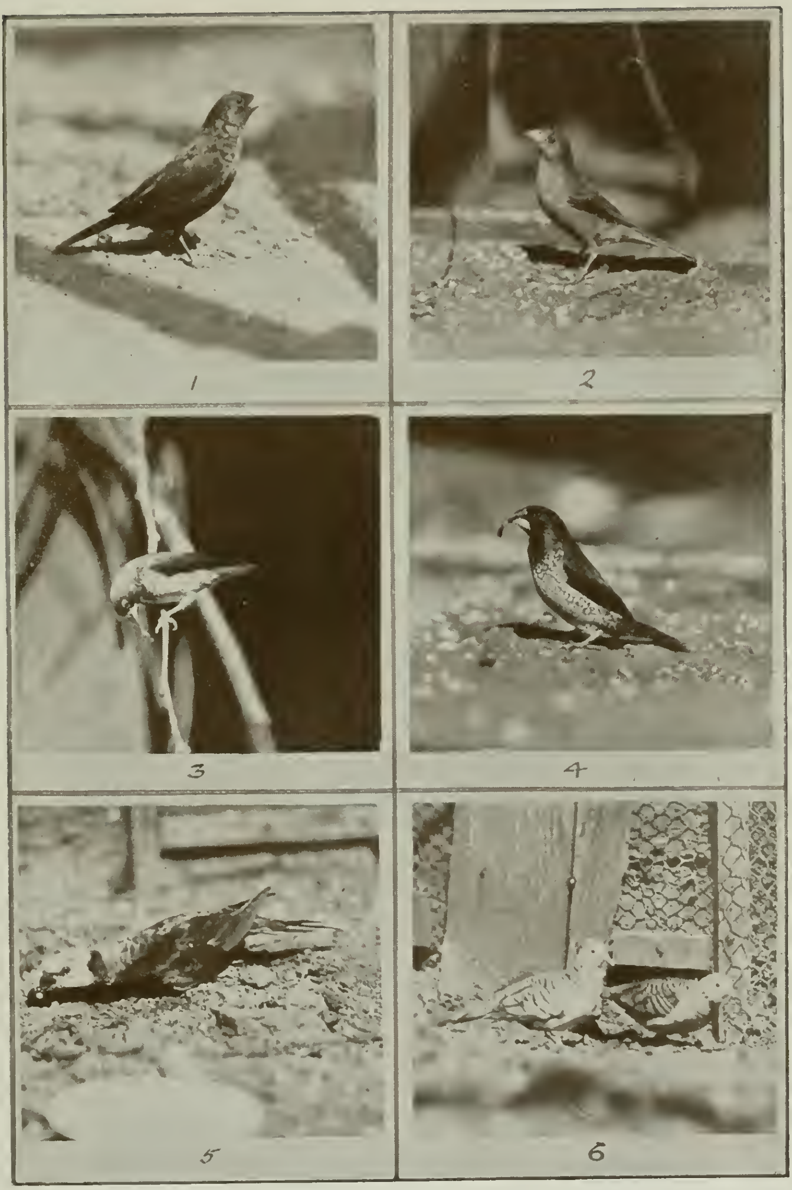

Photo. by E. O. Page.

1 BLACK-CRESTED BUNTING ♀
2 BLACK-HEADED BUNTING ♂
3 and 4 SPICE FINCH x BENGALESE HYBRID ♀
5 RED-COLLARED LORIKEET
6 PEACEFUL DOVES.

Photo. by E. O.Page.

RED-COLLARED LORIKEETS

Trichogolossus rubritorques.

Lorius nothing can equal these remedies, which, if given in time, will mostly save the patient. It has been my experience that when caged with other species, the *Loriidæ* will take a more varied diet, i.e. learn that there are other good things, besides milk sop and fruit (*see under* "*Recent Acquisitions, Red-collared Lorikeets.*")—ED.]

Some Recent Acquisitions.

By WESLEY T. PAGE, F.Z.S., M.B.N.H.S.

(Continued from page 124).

THE RED-COLLARED LORIKEET (*Trichoglossus rubritorques*).

These are most delightful birds (*see plate*) either for cage or aviary, but it is in the out-door aviary that they really shine. My pair were imported by Messrs. Payne and Wallace, and came into my possession last May. When they first arrived they appeared delighted if you would hold the saucer of milk sop up for them to feed from, but since they have been outside in the aviary they have become ridiculously tame, and have evidently come to the conclusion that when one enters the aviary it is merely to afford them perching accommodation. Their beauty is beyond question, and the rich and iridescent hues of their plumage cannot well be exceeded; nevertheless, brilliant as they are, personally I prefer the plumage of the Varied Lorikeets (a pair of which are in the same enclosure) for beauteous harmony of rich colouring. However, with most bird-lovers I presume the Red-Collars would be preferred because of their confiding familiarity, the demeanour of the Varieds being decidedly of a shy and retiring nature. The sexes vary but little, but the hen is decidedly smaller and slimmer than the male, and the various colour areas of her plumage are not so sharply defined, but run more or less one into the other; however, even these points need the confirmation of a later moult before being definitely accepted.

Description: *Adult male.* Head bright shining blue; breast and band on nape of neck fiery orange-red; wing-coverts and sides of body vermilion; upper portion of abdomen dark green; flanks yellow splashed with green; under tail coverts yellow dashed with green; back, wings, and tail bright green; the mantle is more or less varied with orange-red, this is very noticeable when the head is stretched forward; beak red; legs and feet greyish flesh colour. Total length 12 inches, tail 5 inches.

When caged they would eat nothing but milk sop, fruit, and a plain biscuit, but since they have been out of doors, they take a little of everything the aviary contains, and as their companions consist of Tanagers, Finches, Buntings and Troupials, the menu is a very varied one: viz., soft food, seed, milk-sop, fruit, mealworms, green food, and as aforestated they sample them all. While the principal item of their diet is milk-sop, they eat *heartily* of the soft food, lettuce, and are getting quite adept at securing a portion of the mealworms thrown in to the other birds. On their quaint and droll ways and confiding demeanour one could write a volume, but I forbear, as I am hoping others of our members will write about their birds, so refrain from exhausting the subject.

Habitat: Northern Australia, the Coboury Peninsula and adjacent islands.

* * *

THE BLACK-CRESTED BUNTING (*Melopus melanicterus*).

The Buntings are not as a rule popular with the majority of aviculturists for varied reasons; they mostly remain more or less wild, and are not as a rule amiable company for smaller birds, especially during the breeding season. However, I cannot complain of them; I have five species and so far they have agreed among themselves and also with the other birds in their enclosure. The Black-crested, though not brilliant is certainly a very handsome species, as will be seen from the photo reproduced (*see plate, fig.* 1); the crest is of a very hair like character. I must however do them justice: though certainly not tame, they do not dash wildly about when you enter the aviary, but merely move to the other end, while to secure their due portion of mealworms they will fetch them from your feet. These remarks apply equally to *luteola* and *melanocephala*.

Description: *Adult male.* The whole of the plumage is shining velvet-black, with the exception of wings and tail which are deep cinnamon-brown. The beak is pinkish horn-colour and the legs and feet brownish flesh-colour. The adult female is totally dissimilar, being of a plain brown (very handsome however) striated with darker brown, the plumage is lustrous and, when the wings and tail are outstretched, a good bit of cinnamon brown is revealed, that being the colouring of the inner webs of most of the wing and tail feathers. This species and also *luteola* and *melanocephala* were brought over by Capt. Perreau in the spring of this year.

* * *

THE BLACK-HEADED BUNTING (*Euspiza melanocephala*). A very handsome species, the male being of a really fine and striking appearance, with his velvet black head, rich chestnut-brown back and bright yellow underparts. This pair have completed the moult and are now in winter plumage; the male is not nearly so rich in colour, the black of the head and chestnut of the mantle being almost obscured by the greyish-brown fringes of the feathers, neither is the yellow of the underparts of so rich a hue as is the case during the breeding season.

Description: *Adult male.* Upper surface a rich bay or orange-chestnut, rump paler and washed with yellow; upper tail coverts ashy brown, with yellowish margins; median, greater, and primary coverts, bastard wing and quills blackish-brown, broadly margined with lighter brown; tail feathers blackish-brown, edged whitish externally and white on inner webs; top of head, lores, sides of face and ear-coverts velvet-black; cheeks, sides of neck and band across hind neck golden-yellow; remainder of under surface rich golden-yellow; beak pearly-grey, washed with dusky on upper mandible; legs and feet brownish flesh-colour. Total length 7 inches, tail 2⅞.

Adult female. Much duller than the male and lacks the black head, chestnut back and yellow under surface (*see plate, fig.* 2). The general plumage is light brown, washed with olive-brown on the upper surface, and yellow on the rump and under surface. She is also smaller than the male. Total length 6 inches, tail 2⅝.

Habitat: Southern Europe from Asia Minor and Greece; Westward to Southern Germany and France, and Eastward to N.W. and Central India.

* * *

RED-HEADED BUNTING (*Euspiza luteola*). This species has been called by *Lathom* both the Luteous Bunting and Yellow

Grosbeak. The same demeanour and deportment as the two preceding species; handsome but not so brilliant as *melanocephala*. My birds, one male and two females, are all abnormal in plumage, having their wings and tails much pied with white. They have finished the moult, but with this species there is but little difference between the winter and summer plumage.

Description: *Adult male.* Upper surface olive-yellow, streaked with black on the mantle and upper back; lower back and rump yellow, washed with pale chestnut; lesser wing-coverts olive-yellow; median and greater coverts and secondaries dark brown, broadly margined with pale brown, median coverts edged with white; bastard wing, primary coverts and primaries dark brown, narrowly margined with pale-brown; upper tail coverts dark brown, washed with yellow; tail feathers dark brown, edged with lighter brown on both webs, white along margin of outer feathers, these latter having pale brown centres; top of head golden-orange; lores, eye region, ear-coverts and foreneck ruddy-chestnut; sides of neck pale yellowish-chestnut; remainder of under surface yellow, washed with chestnut on the vent; beak bluish-grey, tip of upper mandible dusky; legs and feet brownish flesh-colour. Total length 6½ inches, tail 2⅞.

Adult female: Very dissimilar to the male; general body colouring olive-brown, lightly washed with ashy on the upper surface and yellow on the lower surface. Total length 6⅝ inches, tail 2⅛. *(To be continued).*

Crested Ducks.*

By W. E. Teschemaker, B.A.

These are either the scattered survivors of an old breed or else a "sport," occasionally bred from the ordinary domestic duck. I raised the question a good many years since in *The Field*, on which occasion Mr. W. B. Tegetmeier expressed the latter opinion.

Nevertheless there is evidence to support the former theory in the fact that these ducks are now only found in some parts of Ireland and Wales, in the Isle of Man and in Anglesea, whereas I have it on the authority of several old fanciers that they were once commonly seen in the Midlands and South of England. Further, I believe I am right in saying that the "sport" (if it is a "sport") never occurs in the pure Aylesbury, Runner and Rouen breeds.

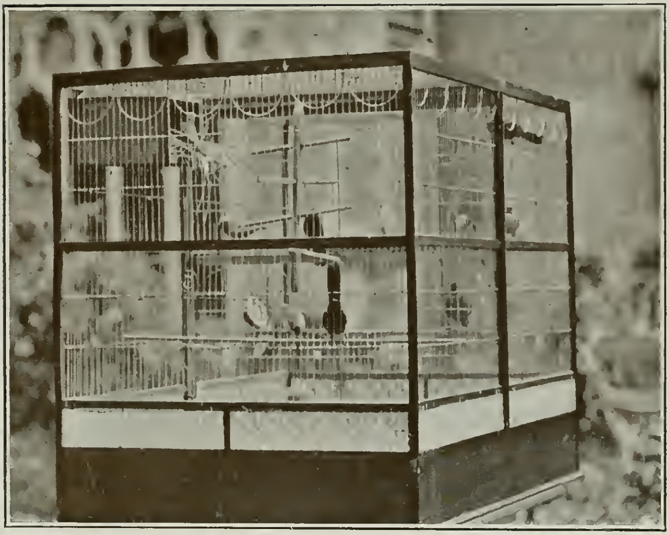

Photo. by E. O. Page.

ONE OF MRS. WARREN VERNON'S FLIGHT CAGES.

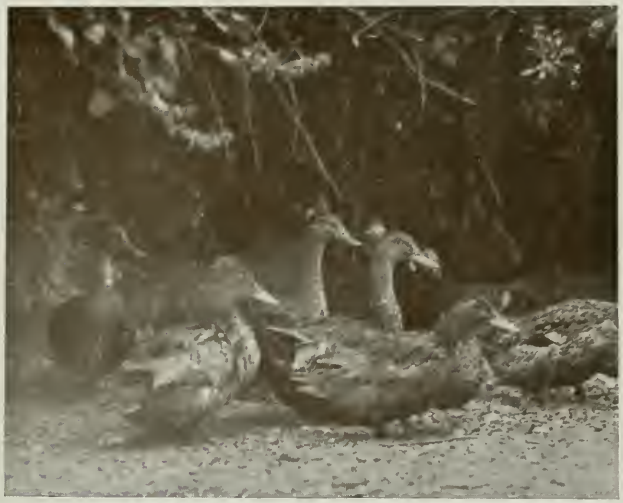

Photo. by E. O. Page.

CRESTED DUCKS.

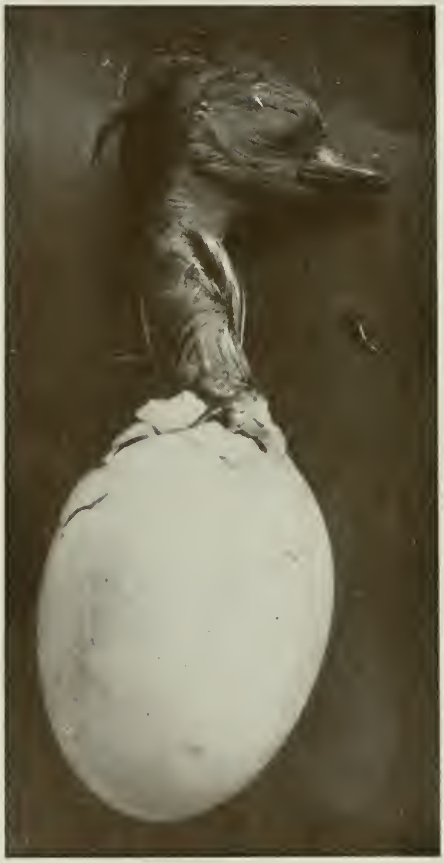

Photo. by W. E. Teschemaker, B.A.

CRESTED DUCKLING,
SHOWING BONY PROCESS FROM WHICH CREST
GROWS, AT BIRTH.

I have bred them for fourteen years, some of my stock having come from the Isle of Man, and some from a very old cottager in Anglesea who had bred them for fifty years. I try to keep mine to the true Rouen type with the crests of moderate size only, because I find it almost impossible to rear those with large crests. The latter appendage grows from a bony process* on the skull, and when the latter is large it appears to press on the brain, causing vertigo. This disadvantage apart, the breed is a hardy and useful one—indeed, one fancier was so impressed with the quantities of eggs laid by my ducks in the Autumn that he gave up his pure-bred Aylesburies and has taken up Crested Ducks. I expect to get fifty per cent. of Crested ducklings in an ordinary season; the remainder being ordinary ducks of Mallard colour with an occasional white one amongst them.

The Nesting of Virginian, Pope, and other Cardinals.

By M. Aronstein.

Inter-breeding of Cardinals.—The cock Pope I got from Hamlyn about three years ago; the hen I also got from the same source a little later. Early last season I paired the Pope hen to a Crested cock, and kept them together in a large flight until March, then I turned them loose into my indoor aviary. From this pair I had three nests during last season, containing eleven eggs in all, from which nine young hatched out, but all unfortunately have only lived about three days.

This season I paired the Pope hen to a Virginian cock, and kept them together in a large flight until March, when I turned them loose into the aviary. They nested and built in a German travelling cage, using for building material roots, fine hay, and horse hair, constructing a very small and pretty nest. Four eggs were laid, which were about the size of a Lark's, heavily speckled or mottled with brown; these all hatched out, but the young lived but four days. To the cock fell mainly the duties of incubation and the construction of the nest.

Within seven days they again started building operations. This time the nest was composed of Shepherd's Purse and horse hair. Four eggs again formed the clutch; after about six days I removed them and placed them under Canaries; two, with two Canary eggs in each nest. Again all four hatched out, but the Canaries refused to feed and threw them out of the nest along with their own. (I have been very unfortunate this season, owing to non-feeding Canary hens).

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* *See plate.*

The last nest was built in July, again the clutch consisted of four eggs, which duly hatched out. I supplied them with plenty of mealworms, and am inclined to think I overdid these, but I was unable to procure other insect food at the time; to this I attribute the loss of these fledglings, which died on the fifth day. I was also extremely busy at the time and was unable to give them the attention I would wish to.

* * *

VARIOUS.—It may also be of interest to readers if I give my experience with Chingolo Sparrows. I have had three nests in all from them, the eggs were duly hatched out, but the young were not reared. They are now sitting again on three eggs. I lost these fledglings mostly from a lack of insect food and the interference of a pair of newly-imported Bichenos, which I got from Messrs. Payne and Wallace in April last. I have one youngster, now eight days old, which will probably be successfully reared. At the present time I have also Dwarf Finches sitting on three eggs, and Green Avadavats nesting. My lack of success in rearing the young may, I think, be attributed to pressure of business preventing me giving them the necessary attention and the lack of a sufficient variety of live insect food.

The Spice Finch × Bengalee Hybrid.

(*See plate* figs. 3 and 4).

By J. H. HENSTOCK.

The Spice-bird × Bengalee Hybrids have proved very hardy for they have wintered out-of-doors and thrived well. By the Spring they had developed into strong, robust birds, and the one depicted in the photo is typical both as to contour and characteristic pose. I had half-a-dozen or more flying in the aviary, as well as the Spice-bird (father of the hybrids) and the

Bengalee hen, and as soon as the warm weather set in they showed a desire to nest. As I did not want any more of the hybrids I caught the Spice-bird and put him in a separate aviary, in the hope of securing a cock Bengalee. For some reason or other these seemed to be very scarce this year and several dealers I applied to sent in the same report—"none on the market." The hybrids, however, proved to be in vigorous health and mated up with the Bengalee and also amongst themselves. There were several nests and much nest making going on. Numerous clutches of eggs were laid and duly sat on, but of course all were unfertile. The nest usually built was of hay, with the top always covered in. The structure had an entrance of about four to six inches, and the birds had to walk up this "entrance hall" before reaching the actual nest. It was composed entirely of long bents of hay, and generally built from front to back of the pea sticks in which they invariably nested. But once or twice they selected a Hartz travelling cage, the same shaped nest being always made.

I have noticed this year that the birds seemed to be more chubby in build and appear to have filled out more. The colouring is also more intense and therefore more after the Spice-bird fashion. The "song" too is stronger, and in one bird, at least, is a combination of both species. For in the midst of the Spice-bird twittering you can plainly hear the "quack, quack," of the Bengalee. I suppose it is a similar mixture that we get from the Goldfinch-canary mules, a blending of the two songs. But of course the birds are not songsters.

They are lively little birds, strong in flight, and are always darting about the aviary, with joyous and happy hearts, providing plenty of interest to the observer. They never seem to ail anything, are content with ordinary seed mixture, fairly revel in a bath, and keep on good terms with the rest of their fellows. What more can you want?

Reviews and Notices of New Books.

BIRDS OF THE PLAINS. By DOUGLAS DEWAR, F.Z.S., I.C.S., with sixteen illustrations from photographs of Living Birds by Capt. F. D. S. FAYRER, I.M.S. Published by JOHN LANE, The Bodley Head, Vigo Street, London. 10/6 net.

This work from the pen of our esteemed member is one of the most interesting and instructive treatises on Indian Birds that has been published for some time. It is largely anecdotal, yet original, and from cover to cover there is not a single page that is not full of interest, and that does not speak of an intimate acquaintance with the subjects of his pen in their native wilds. Many debateable ornithological problems are touched upon and the author's reasons for his views lucidly given, mostly based on personal field notes and observations.

The following glossary of the 42 chapters will indicate the scope and interest of Mr. Dewar's instructive production.

1 Birds common to the Plains of India and the British Isles.
2 The Bird in Blue.
3 Sparrows in the Nursery.
4 The Care of young Birds after they leave the nest.
5 The Adjutant Bird.
6 The Sarus
7 The Stability of Species.
8 The Amadavat
9 The Nutmeg Bird.
10 The Did-he-do-it.
11 Cobbler or Tailor?
12 A Crow in Colours.
13 Up-to-date Species Making.
14 Honeysuckers.
15 A Hewer of Wood.
16 A Feathered Sprinter
17 A Bird of Character.
18 Swifts.
19 Birds as Automata.
20 Playing Cuckoo.
21 The Koel.
22 The Common Doves of India.
23 Doves in a Verandah.
24 The Golden Oriole.
25 The Barn Owl.
26 A Tree Top Tragedy.
27 Two Little Birds.
28 The Paradise Flycatcher.
29 Butcher Birds.
30 Ducks.
31 A Dethroned Monarch.
32 Birds in the Rain.
33 The Weaver Bird.
34 Green Parrots.
35 The Roosting of the Sparrows.
36 A Gay Deceiver.
37 The Emerald Merops.
38 Do Animals Think.
39 A Couple of Neglected Craftsmen.
40 Birds in their Nests.
41 Bulbuls.
42 The Indian Corby.

The foregoing list fully indicates what an entrancing book Mr. Dewar has written, and for it I have nothing but commendation. The illustrations are all good, but the "Nest of Loten's Sunbird" and "Loten's Sunbird (hen) about to enter her Nest" are of very great interest. Mr. Dewar writes as a Field Naturalist and not as an Aviculturist, nevertheless the aviculturist after perusing his book cannot but have a more intelligent appreciation of the occupants of his cages and aviaries. The following extract will fully illustrate this.

THE AMADAVAT.

" So will my readers at once recognise the bird of which I write when " I inform them that the Amadavat is the little red bird with white spots " that occurs in every aviary in India. The bird is, indeed, not all red, but the " bill is bright red and there are patches of this colour all over the plumage— " more in the cock than in the hen, and more in the former in the breeding " season than at other times. Thus the general effect is that of a red bird, " hence the native name of *Lal munia*, which, being interpreted, is the Red " Munia. This is the proper English name of the bird, although fanciers " frequently call it the Red Waxbill. Men of science know it as *Sporæginthus amandava*. I may say here that the name Avadavat or Amadavat " is derived from Ahmedabad, whence great numbers used to be exported, " for the bird is a great favourite in England.

" It is the cage bird of India *par excellance*. Hundreds of thousands " of Amadavats must at this moment be living in captivity. The bird takes " to captivity as a Scotsman to whisky. Within five minutes of capture the " little creature is contentedly eating its seed and singing quite gaily. This " is no exaggeration. I was recently out with a friend when we came upon " a small boy catching Munias. We saw captured a fine cock which my " friend purchased for two annas. Not happening to have a cage in his " pocket, he put the tiny creature into a fold of his handkerchief and placed " the remainder of the handkerchief in his pocket. While we were walking " home our captive began twittering in answer to his companions who were " still free. If this be not philosophical behaviour, I do not know what is.

" Nothing is easier than to catch Munias. All that is required is " the common pyramidal-shaped four-anna wicker cage in which birds are " usually carried about in India. To the base of one of the walls of this a " flap is attached by a hinge. The flap is the same size and shape as the " walls of the cage, and composed of a frame over which a narrow meshed " string net is stretched. A string is fastened to the apex of the flap. The " cage with a captive bird inside, is placed in the open so that the flap rests on " the ground. On this some groundsel is thrown. In a few minutes a passing " Amadavat is attracted by the song of the bird inside. The new-comer at " once begins to feed on the groundsel. Then the bird-catcher, who is " seated a few feet away, pulls the string sharply, so that the flap closes over " the side of the cage and thus the bird is secured. It is then placed inside " the cage and the flap again set. In this manner a dozen or more " Amadavats can be captured in an hour. . . . . Although " Amadavats are widely distributed in India and fairly common in most " parts of the country, they usually escape notice on account of their small " size. When flying overhead they are probably mistaken for Sparrows. " Moreover they do not often visit gardens ; they prefer open country.

"Amadavats belong to the finch family, to the great tribe which "includes the Sparrow, the Canary, and the Weaver-bird. By their coarse "beak, tapering to a point, you may know them. The use of this big beak "is to husk grain. Finches do not gobble up their seed whole as pigeons "or fowls do; they carefully husk each grain before swallowing it. Hence "the meal of a bird of this family is a somewhat protracted affair. He who "keeps an aviary should remember this and provide his birds with several "seed-boxes, otherwise one or two bullies (for there are bullies even among "tiny birds) are apt to monopolize the food.

"He should also bear in mind that Nature does not provide her "feathered children with teeth. Seed-eating birds, therefore, habitually "swallow small stones and pieces of grit. These perform the function of "millstones inside the bird. From this it follows that it is cruel to keep "seed-eating birds without supplying them with sand and grit. The bone "of a cuttle-fish, tied to the wall of the cage, is much appreciated by all "the finch tribe and helps to keep them in condition.

"The nest of the Amadavat is a large ball of fibrous material, some-"what carelessly put together, with a hole at one side by way of entrance. "Winter is the season in which to look for the nests, but they are not easy "to find, being well concealed in low bushes. Six pure white glossless eggs "are usually laid."

I have said Mr. Dewar does not write as an aviculturist, but, from the foregoing extract, it will be seen that the book is not merely informative as to the wild life of the birds and ornithological problems, but it also contains much that is helpful to the keeper of Foreign Birds. I cordially recommend "Birds of the Plains" as a *useful* and *valuable* addition to my reader's bookshelves. W. T. P.

FOREIGN BIRDS FOR BEGINNERS. By WESLEY T. PAGE, F.Z.S., etc., illustrated. Published by F. CARL, 154, Fleet Street, E.C. 1/1 post free.

I have received from the publishers (Messrs. F. Carl and Co.) a delightful little handbook entitled "Foreign Birds for Beginners," written by Mr. Wesley T. Page. Most books on this subject are expensive and somewhat diffuse, but here we have something compact, up to date, and at such a wonderfully low price as to be within the reach of all.

Beginning with practical details of outdoor aviaries (with a diagrammatic sketch of one measuring 12ft. × 6ft. × 6ft.), indoor aviaries and cages, we next come to a chapter on foods. Here we may note the strong vein of common sense that runs through the book, for, instead of recommending one of those elaborate compounds so frequently advocated, which are quite impracticable for the ordinary aviarist both on account of their expensive nature and the length of time required to mix them, the author gives a simple and wholesome receipe.

Then follows a description of selected foreign species, with ample notes on plumage, habitat, food and general details and (with a special eye to the requirements of the beginner) in many cases the prices at which they may be obtained in the bird-market.

The majority of these species are selected from the Commoner Finches, Mannikins, Waxbills, and Whydahs, but Mr. Page also gives most interesting notes of some rarer birds from his personal experience of them in his own aviaries, as for instance of the Grey-winged Ouzel, Jacarini Finch, etc. Mr. Page is able to describe a nest of the Silky Cowbird which must be a most unusual occurrence as this species is of course normally parasitic. There are also essays on the Sugar Birds, one Dove (*G. cuneata*) and some of the Cockatiels and Parrakeets.

There are seven plates in black and white and one excellent coloured plate of the *Psittacidae*. A few errata have crept in (as will always occur even after the most careful correction of proofs); for instance the bird illustrated as a Bengalee is apparently a Black-headed Mannikin.

Some of the points raised are open to a difference of opinion, as for instance the design of nest-box* recommended for doves, which is one in which the writer has never been able to induce any foreign dove to nest.

This little handbook can be strongly recommended and at the present time, when so many beginners are taking up this hobby and losing birds through sheer ignorance, it will prove most useful.

W. E. T.

Other recent Books are:—

THE INDIAN WILD DUCKS AND THEIR ALLIES. By E. C. STUART BAKER. Coloured plates by H. Gronvöld, G. E. Lodge and J. G. Keulemans. Published by the Bombay Natural History Society. London: R. H. PORTER. Price 2 guineas net.

THE ROMANCE OF BIRD LIFE. By JOHN LEA, M.A. Illustrated London: SEELEY & Co. Price 5/-

HOW TO ATTRACT AND PROTECT WILD BIRDS. By MARTIN HIESEMANN, with an introduction by H. G. the DUCHESS OF BEDFORD. Illustrated. Published b WITHERBY & Co., 326, High Holborn, London, W. 1/6 net.

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* I have had 10 pairs of Diamond Doves reared in such a box during the past two seasons.—W. T. P.

THE WILD BEASTS OF THE WORLD. By FRANK FINN, B.A., F.Z.S., etc. With 100 coloured plates. Published by T. C. & E. C. JACK, 16, Henrietta Street, Covent Garden, London, W.C. In 17 parts at 1/- each.

Strictly speaking, this the latest work from the prolific and versatile pen of our esteemed member, is outside the scope of our notices, but as most bird-keepers are lovers of all wild life, I have pleasure in bringing "Wild Beasts of the World" to their notice. It is an edition *De Luxe* at a popular price: it is thoroughly up-to-date, and the treatment is both scientific and popular. Part I. is already published, it contains 6 coloured plates, viz., Chimpanzee, Gorilla, Orang Utan, Hoolock Gibbon, Lungoor Monkey and Guereza Monkey. The text and general get up certainly indicate that the complete work will form a beautiful and interesting book. It certainly is a marvellous shilling's worth.

Editorial.

PAINTED FINCHES (*Emblema picta*). I much regret that success has not attended our esteemed member, Mr. A. L. Keith Murray, with this species—the eggs proved unfertile, they ceased to incubate on July 28th, when he removed the eggs. I have received the following notes: "Two "shell-less eggs were laid on August 13th, which the hen ate. They are "very tame and are thinking of building again. The cock bird sat on my "head yesterday (August 19th) during liberty hour." I may here remark that my pair built, but the hen which had always been rather soft (liver trouble) died before the actual laying of eggs. When the body was opened there were found a number of eggs in various stages of development. I hope other aviculturists may have been more fortunate.

Later news from Mr. Murray, September 10th, is to the effect that the Painted Finches are again sitting on another clutch of eggs; also that he has Cuba Finches sitting close, young of Blue-breasted Waxbills in nest and that Aurora Finches are sitting on two eggs, two having been taken by one of the other birds. If the Blue-breasted Waxbills are reared I think this will constitute a first on record for this country.

REARING WADERS, ETC.: Taken as a whole, fine as the summer has been, the season has been but a poor one, that is from the standpoint of breeding results. Personally I have had more eggs fail to hatch than I can remember in any other year of my avicultural experience—the excessive dry weather covering a long period, I deduce, is not favourable for hatching results, save perhaps for some of the Australian Finches. This experience seems to be pretty general, for in response to my enquiries many aviculturists tell the same story. The following items will probably interest many readers—they are extracts taken from a letter received from our esteemed member, Mr. H. Wormald.

"My breeding results being very poor—I got five young from a com- "mon hen Bullfinch paired to a pure white male with pink breast, but these "were forsaken after 12 days hatching; exactly the same occurred with my

" other Bullfinches and Greenfinches. Ruff's and Reeve's eggs got smashed " by other birds. Have bred a few hybrid ducks, a good number of Cali- " fornian and three Harlequin Quails. One hen Californian Quail has laid " every day since April 2nd, only missing two days (*date of letter August* " *27th*), and seems in perfect health!

" Hand rearing was a little more successful. I succeeded in rearing " one Snipe from the egg (*vide last issue*); also the following young birds " caught when about one week old were successfully reared:—one Green " Plover, eight Ringed Plovers and one Green Woodpecker."

ALBINO AND PIED BULLFINCHES: Our esteemed member, Mrs. Warren Vernon, informs me that the ♀ of a pair she reared has a snow-white cap, and numerous white feathers in the wing, its beak is yellowish horn colour, and the bird is exceedingly handsome; the ♂ is a typical specimen but very bright with an exceptionally brilliant breast. Mrs. Vernon raises the query, would her hen paired with a normal male throw any pied young? I answered this in the negative, but I am rather inclined since to qualify that statement, and to say that the majority of their progeny would be of typical plumage, but that there would certainly be a possibility of an occassional pied youngster. My reasons are these, in a recent issue of *Bird Notes* I recorded a number of pied sparrows I had met with in a given spot. I will be a little more precise and say that on my way to and from business I have to pass a small recreation ground, and that the period I am speaking of covers last year and this. I have seen at least a dozen specimens, and all more or less pied and so strikingly different that it is impossible for me to have noted the same bird twice—all of them I have seen on many occasions. Now as these are all confined to a small area the question arises: have the pied birds seen in 1907 influenced their progeny this year, in other words, are they responsible to any degree for the additional specimens seen in 1908? If so, it would appear possible, that in time one might hope to perpetuate such a variety—it would however, I feel sure be the work of more than one lifetime before such became permanent. Before leaving this topic, it may be of interest to record that I know of a Pied Blackbird being carefully watched during one season, she was paired to a typical male and all her young were of *normal* plumage. Mr. H. Wormald has a lovely albino Bullfinch ♂ pure white save for its pink breast.

PEACEFUL DOVES (*Geopelia tranquilla*): Our esteemed members, Messrs. Teschemaker and Willford, have bred this species for the first time in the United Kingdom, almost simultaneously, but on comparing dates Mr. Willford takes the record by a few days. An account of his success will appear in next issue.

A CONSIGNMENT OF RARE BIRDS FROM NEW GUINEA AND JAVA. Mr. Walter Goodfellow, who has on many previous occasions, successfully brought over new and rare species, has again quite recently arrived in this country with an unique consignment of one hundred birds, many of which reached this country for the first time as living specimens. In response to my enquiry Mr. Goodfellow has kindly sent on the following list, though owing to its arriving just as we are going to press, I am unable to give any notes of the respective species.

" The collection comprised exactly one hundred living birds, landed " alive. Five only died on the journey between the mountains of New " Guinea and England. I left the interior on June 10th, and had eight " days march to the coast. Left the coast June 24th, reaching England on " September 4th.

" Nearly all the birds are mountain species, most of them were " obtained at an altitude between 4,000 and 6,000 feet.
" 4 pairs and 1 odd ♀ Raggi's Birds of Paradise (*Paradisea raggiana*).
" 3 pairs Rifle Birds (*Ptilornis intercedens*).
" 5 pairs and 1 odd ♂ Lawe's Six-plumed Paradise Birds (*Parotia lawesi*).
" 10 pairs Hunstein's Magnificents (*Diphyllodus hunsteini*).
" 1 Southern species of D'Alberti's Paradise Bird (*Drepanornis cervicauda*).
" 1 Superb Paradise Bird (*Lophorina minor*).
" 4 Gardener Bower Birds of two species (*Amblyornis inornata* and *subularis*).
" 4 Manucodes (*Manucodia chalybata* and *purpureo-violacea*).
" 5 pairs Stella Lories (*Charmosyna stellæ*).
" 10 Fair Lories (*Charmosynaopsis pulchella*).
" 1 ♂ Beautiful Lory (*Hypocharmosyne placens*).
" 3 New Guinea King Parrots (*Aprosmictus chloropterus*).
" 1 pair Double-eyed Parrots (*Cyclopsittacus* ?)
" 1 Dumont's Grackle (*Mino dumonti*).
" 3 pairs White-throated Pigeons (*Columba albigularis*).
" 3 pairs Blue-faced Grassfinches * (*Erythura trichoa*).

" The following species were from Java :—
" 2 ♂ and 1 ♀ Fairy Blue Birds (*Irena turcosa*).
" 1 Drongo (*Crypsirhina varians*).
" 2 species of Rare Green Bulbuls.

" Two of the Raggiana Paradise Birds I brought up by hand from the nest."

Mr. Goodfellow is to be congratulated on his success; how great an achievement it is I fear only those who have attempted the importation of living birds under such conditions will be able to appreciate. The majority of the above species are imported alive for the first time. With much regret I am compelled to go to press with only a bare list, but shall hope to note most of the species in our next issue.

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* Tri-colour Parrot Finches.

NOTES FROM THE ZOO. The following have reared young in the Gardens during the current season.

1 Wonga-Wonga Pigeon (*Leucosarcia picata*).
2 Tataupa Tinamous (*Crypturus tataupa*).
3 Harlequin Quails (*Coturnix delagorgi*).
4 Half-collared Turtle Doves (*Turtus semitorquatus*).
3 Summer Ducks (*Æx sponsa*).
6 Spot-bill Ducks (*Anas pœcilorhynchus*).
3 Common Widgeon (*Mareca penelope*).
3 Andaman Teal (*Nettion albigulare*).
1 American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*).
1 Graceful Ground Dove (*Geopelia cuneata*).
2 Common Partridges (*Perdix cinerea*).
1 Prince of Wales Pheasant (*Phasianus principalis*).
2 Japanese Pheasants (*P. versicolor*).
2 Glittering Pheasants (*P. soemmeringi scintillans*).
3 Reeves' Pheasants (*P. reevesi*).
3 Amherst Pheasants (*Thaumalea amherstiæ*).
2 Hybrid Curassows (*Crax heki* ♂ × *Crax globicera*).
1 Green-winged Dove (*Chalcophaps indica*).

The following interesting species, *new to the collection*, have been received during September: 1 Orchard Finch; 1 Chilian Troupial; 2 Barbadian Troupials.

The Barbadian Troupials are a very handsome species, both sexes of glossy black plumage, with a wicked-looking yellow eye. The male is a little larger than the female and his plumage is of a deeper and purer hue.

NESTING OF BULBULS. In the aviary of our esteemed member, Mr. A. Sutcliffe, a pair of Bulbuls (species undetermined, said to be from the Philipines), probably the Thrush-like Bulbul, have built an open cup-shaped nest and laid two or three eggs, which unfortunately have not hatched. They have however nested again and are now sitting on another clutch of eggs, it is certainly to be hoped that complete success will crown their efforts on this occasion. We shall hope in a later issue to figure a photo of the nest and eggs, and also a fuller account from Mr. Sutcliffe's pen.

CERTIFICATES have been awarded as under, for the successful rearing of young of the following species for the first time in the United Kingdom.

Peaceful Doves (*Geopelia tranquilla*); H. WILLFORD.
Pelzeln's Saffron Finch (*Sycalis pelzelni*); W. E. TESCHEMAKER, B.A.
White-eyebrowed Wood Swallows (*Artamus superciliosus*); E. J. BROOK.

ERRATA.—Page 140, line 16: for *bark* read *bents.*
,, 158, line 2: for *E. J. Brooks* read *E. J. Brook.*
,, 158, ,, 3 from bottom: for *cannabilistic* read *cannibalistic.*
,, 160, ,, 11 from bottom: for *infinite* read *infinitely.*

Correspondence.

"OUR MAGAZINE."

SIR,—I think the proposal that each present member should introduce one new member an excellent one, and, if Mr. Millsum will permit me, I would suggest an amendment to it, namely:

(1) That each member shall procure one new member or, as a forfeit, subscribe 5/- to the Illustration Fund;

(2) That the member introducing the greatest number of new members [not less than four—Ed.] shall have his annual subscription returned to him for the current year.

W. E. TESCHEMAKER.

[The Secretary not to compete.—ED.]

Post Mortem Reports.

(*Vide Rules*).

For replies by post, a fee of 2/6 *must be sent;* this regulation will not be broken under any conditions.

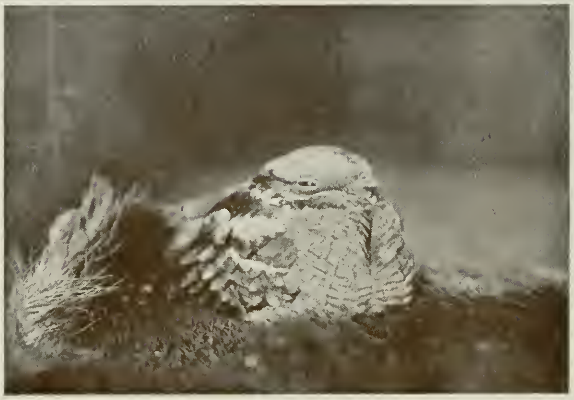
Small FINCH. (Lady Dunn). Cause of illness, pneumonia. The crop was distended with seed and in consequence of this region being somewhat bare of feathers, the organ appeared abnormal, which it was not.

BRITISH WREN. (G. E. Weston). The body was plump, well nourished and the internal organs were healthy. The cause of death was syncope or sudden failure of the heart's action.

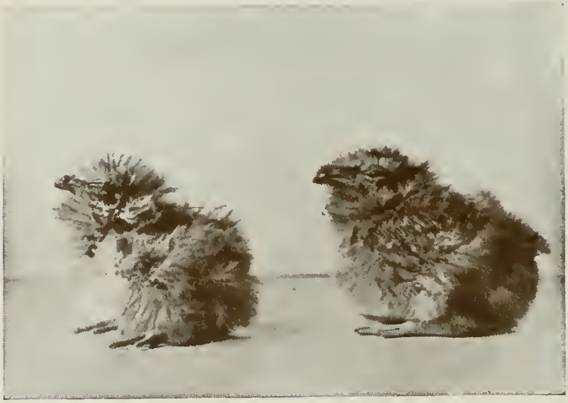
Cock MANY-COLOUR PARRAKEET. (Capt. G. A. PERREAU.) Cause of death, acute double pneumonia.

YOUNG GOULDIAN FINCH. (Mrs. L. ROGERSON.) Cause of death, fracture of convexity of skull, the fractured portion being depressed. The cranium was very delicate and easily compressible.

HENRY GRAY, M.R.C.V.S.



NIGHTJAR (♀) INCUBATING.



YOUNG NIGHTJARS EIGHT DAYS OLD.

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BIRD NOTES:

— THE —

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

The Nesting of the Nightjar in Captivity.

By W. E. TESCHEMAKER, B.A.

Quite the most remarkable achievement probably that has ever been recorded in aviculture is the recent successful breeding of the Nightjar in Germany. Few indeed are the aviarists in this country who have succeeded in keeping this species in good health for more than a very short period, and, when we recollect that in these few cases success has only been attained by the patient labour of regular daily hand-feeding, it seems almost unbelievable that no less than two broods of young should have been fully reared in captivity, quite apart from the fact that so shy and retiring a bird should have actually incubated upon a hearthrug in an ordinary sitting room.

When therefore some particulars of this unprecedented event were reproduced in *The Field* of Oct. 18th, I suggested to our Editor that it might be possible to obtain further details for the benefit of our Magazine; but I must own to some astonishment, well as I know the colossal energy of Mr. Page, when almost by return of post I received five numbers of *Die Gefiederte Welt*, and an intimation that the loan of two blocks had been obtained from the Editor of *The Field*. Let me in the first place express our great indebtedness to the latter and at the same time mention, by his request, that the blocks were prepared from photographs kindly lent by Dr. O. Heinroth. Dr. Heinroth occupies an official position at the Berlin Zoological Gardens and has a good collection of indigenous birds, chiefly Softbills. He is also the fortunate possessor of a wife, who not only looks after his birds, but is equal to writing an extremely interesting and able account of them, which in this case takes the form of a Diary carefully written up day by day.

Frau M. Heinroth's paper is far too long to reproduce in its entirety, so I have condensed the narrative and have only translated *verbatim* the more interesting passages. It should be noted that the second illustration kindly lent us was entitled, when it appeared in *The Field*, " Young Nightjars *eight days old*," but some error seems to have crept in, possibly in the translation, because the same photograph is entitled in *Die Gefiederte Welt* "Young Nightjars *on the day of hatching*."

* * * * *

THE NIGHTJAR (*Caprimulgus europaeus*) is one of the rarest of cage-birds and little is recorded in the text-books of its habits in captivity. My husband and myself were therefore anxious to study its habits closely and it was with this object that on the 9th Nov. 1906 we obtained our first Nightjar from the Berlin dealer, P. Heibel. This bird was in very poor feather and had a kind of stupified expression but it was well nourished. For nearly a month it had to be hand-fed; it then commenced to take a little food from a pair of forceps and at the end of December it picked up a mealworm from the ground. It was a male and we called him "Kuno."

Early in 1907 "Kuno" showed some signs of an intention to make a nest, so our ambition now was to obtain another and attempt to breed them. In July we succeeded in obtaining two young birds from the same nest. We had the greatest difficulty in rearing them. Before they came into our hands they had been fed on bread and milk by which their feathers had been much soiled.

These young birds were a pair, but the male did not agree with "Kuno," so we gave him to the Frankfort Zoological Gardens, keeping "Kuno" and the young female which we called "Norah."

We kept them in a cage 3ft. long, 2ft. deep and 2ft. high, with peat and sand on the floor. "Kuno" would neither drink nor bathe so we used to syringe him.

In the afternoons they were allowed their liberty in the dining room or study. "Kuno" was very lively and would fly quietly and cleverly round and round the room, but at night they would often become quite wild, dashing about and striking their heads against the ceiling.

As a young bird "Kuno" used simply to chirp, but when he grew older he commenced the "jarring" note (*Nachtschwalbenlochton*). They liked scraped meat mixed with dried ants' eggs, also scoured gentles, but would not eat dried ants' eggs alone. They began their moult in the middle of February and had completed it by the end of March. "Kuno" began to utter his "jarring" note on the 24th March.

"Kuno" was very shy at first with "Norah," and would not respond to her friendly advances, so she turned from him, and for a long time would never sit close to him, but in April, when "Kuno" began to court her in earnest, "Norah" became very affectionate. At this time they weighed 81 grs. and 76 grs. respectively. "Kuno" now fell deeply in love. He would fly round the room after "Norah," and on the ground he would follow her, raising and displaying his tail, his head pressed flat to the ground, curtseying before her and uttering his love-note "*Quick, Quick.*" The female would then utter a low note and "Kuno" would spring into the air on triumphant wing.

Pairing took place at the end of May. The site selected for the nest was a skin-rug on the floor of the dining-room, on which "Kuno" would crouch supporting himself on his wings and scraping with his feet. "Norah" now began to pick up any small white objects so we supplied her with some lime. On 2nd June "Norah" laid her first egg on the floor. It was pale in ground colour with few spots; length 28 mm., breadth 21 mm.

She rolled it about the floor for some time, but at last sat on it and so remained until the evening.

At 7 p m. she left the nest and it does not appear that she again sat on it that night. The second egg was laid on the 4th June. On the 3rd of June she left the egg for ten minutes in the middle of the day, ate a little and returned to the nest. We marked the first egg with ink: the second was a little longer and heavier. "Kuno" was very lively and affectionate but "Norah" drove him from the nest, so he used to sit opposite her on the rug, never leaving her out of his sight. The question now was whether the eggs were fertile, because "Norah" had never responded very freely to his advances. If fertile we expected them to hatch on the 19th. After the second egg was laid "Norah" became a most devoted mother. Nothing disturbed her. The room might be cleaned: anybody might look at her: a cupboard close to her might be opened—she took no notice. (See plate).

We were careful never to disturb them, although we would have liked to see whether our pair would remove their eggs in their beaks as the text books tell us wild Nightjars do. In every twenty-four hours "Norah" would leave the nest three or four times to feed and take exercise. During her absence "Kuno" would cover the eggs for about a quarter-of-an-hour. He used to call his mate, uttering his love-note "*Quick*," and if she did not leave the nest he would gently push her off the eggs. He used to do this about eleven a.m. and eight p.m.; at two p.m. she would generally leave of her own accord. At night "Norah" alone used to sit, but I have seen "Kuno" relieving her between three and four in the morning. The surroundings of the nest were kept scrupulously clean by the pair. It was delightful to see "Norah" return to the eggs after feeding. She would either fly gracefully to the nest, alighting close by, or she would run to it her head held high with pride; then she would roll the eggs until she tucked them comfortably under her. The day before they hatched the pair were so engrossed that they both incubated side by side.

On the 18th of June we saw the first little chip in one egg. On the 19th we waited impatiently for the great event, but we had to go to bed before it came off. On the 20th at 4 a.m. "Norah" was sitting motionless, but at 7.30 a.m. the first egg hatched. We tried to entice "Norah" from the nest by holding out mealworms to her: at last she came off and there lay a charming little chick—just a little ball of light grey fluff. We took it in our hands and to our surprise found it far from helpless: its weight was 5 grs.

The parents were very attentive and took it in turns to feed the young. They do not do this in the ordinary way but, on the contrary, the young one takes the parent's beak as far as the nostrils in its own tiny gape and holds it quite tightly and in this way food is passed into its throat. On the afternoon of the 20th the second egg hatched.

For four days after hatching we left the chicks entirely to the parents, but we then saw that we should have to assist as they were not thriving. I fed them three or four times a day with pellets composed of chopped fresh ants' pupæ, finely scraped meat, the insides of "*Junikafer*" (probably cockchafers.—E.T.), the whole moistened with a little saliva and prepared fresh every time. Subsequently for several days I gave them insects whole, the parents continuing to feed them also, and after this the parents fed them unassisted, as they became quite strong.

To our great consternation the parents commenced to make love again when the young were four days old and we feared they would desert them. Our fears, however, were groundless for they continued most attentive and affectionate.

On June 24 pairing was renewed and on July 1 "Norah" again began to consume lime. The second clutch of eggs was laid on July 3 and 5, and these were a little darker in colour. These eggs hatched in eighteen days and the young were again fully reared.

* * * * *

Thus ends a paper not only most interesting in itself but very valuable from a scientific point of view. In the first place the duration of incubation had never before I think been definitely ascertained, although Howard Saunders is approximately correct in the *Manual*.

Secondly, from the fact of its breeding so late in the year, the Nightjar has generally been regarded as single-brooded, but we now know that, occasionally at all events, it rears a second brood.

Thirdly, the time and duration of the spring moult (at which season of course Nightjars have left this country) has been noted.

Fourthly, we now have a detailed account of the courtship and incubation of this species and especially of the method of feeding the young.

Lastly we have actual photographs of the young at the different stages of their growth. (See plate).

I feel sure that we shall all unite in saying "Well done, Frau Heinroth"!*

Aviary Birds I have met with in their Natural State.

By Douglas Dewar, F.Z.S., I.C.S.

(*Continued from page* 166).

IV. INDIAN STARLINGS.

The Starlings bear living testimony to the richness of the Indian avifauna. No fewer than twenty-nine species of full-blown Starlings, to say nothing of five doubtful ones, disport themselves in India and on the adjacent islands. Of these, half-a-dozen species are widely distributed and abundant where they occur.

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* Further notes in next issue.

The Common Indian Starling (*Sturnus menzbieri*) first demands our notice. This bird looks to me as much like the Common Starling (*S. vulgaris*) as one pea is to another. It is true that I have never seen the birds side by side, but even then I do not think that they would be easy to distinguish unless held in the hand and examined feather by feather. The Indian species displays the characteristic green and purple sheen and the buff spots. This Starling does not breed in India. It is merely a winter visitor to the northern part of the Peninsula, and although it comes in large numbers it seems lost amid the host of more familiar species.

The first of these is the Rose-coloured Starling (*Pastor roseus*) which occurs in India from July to April, merely leaving us to make a hurried journey to Asia Minor for breeding purposes. It is most *en evidence* in April, when enormous flocks are seen ready for migration. At this time the spring cereals and the mulberries are ripe. On these the birds work sad havoc and hence are a scourge to the cultivator. But, inasmuch as they devour locusts with avidity, they are not unmixed pests.

Rosy Starlings being good to eat and easy to shoot are the favourite game birds of the natives of Northern India. A charge of No. 6 fired into a tree which is literally black with Rosy Starlings secures many victims. To those who know the native of India it is unnecessary to say that he shoots his game when sitting. To aim at a flying bird is to him the act of a madman.

Rosy Starlings, like all the rest of their kind, continually give forth a joyful noise. To repeat what I have said elsewhere "their note is a sibilant twitter, which is not very loud; indeed considering the efforts put into it, there is remarkably little result, but the notes are so persistent and so many birds talk at once that they can be heard from afar. The song of the Rosy Starling is not musical, not more so than the chitter, chitter of a flock of Sparrows at bedtime; yet it is not displeasing to the ear. There is an exuberance in it which is most attractive. It cannot be conversational, for all the birds talk at once. And their notes lack expression and variety. Their clamour is not unlike the singing of the kettle as it stands on the hob; in each case the sound is caused by the letting off of superflous energy."

The Common Myna (*Acridotheres tristis--the* Starling of Hindustan—next demands our attention. He is perhaps the commonest bird in India. His general hue is reddish brown, the head, neck, and breast are black. In the wing there is a broad white bar exceedingly conspicuous during flight. The bill, the legs, and a bare patch of skin about the eyes are bright mustard yellow. He is somewhat bigger than *Sturnus vulgaris.* His normal diet consists of grasshoppers and other insects; hence he often struts sedately along beside grazing cattle, snatching up the insects as they hop out of the quadrupeds' way. The Myna, like the Sparrow, has attached himself to man and has in consequence become omnivorous.

It nestles in a hole in a tree or building, and when no suitable cavity is available it will build on a ledge in a verandah. The nest partakes of the nature of a rag and bone shop, being made up of sticks, straws, grass, and rags bundled *pêle mêle* into the cavity or on to the ledge as the case may be.

Mynas of this species are very frequently kept as pets by natives of India. A tame Myna will follow its master about in dog-like fashion. This species can be taught to talk, but it is not as a rule an apt pupil. I have never succeeded in teaching an *Acridotheres* to say anything, nor have I ever heard one talk. The best performers in this respect are the various species of Hill-Mynas (*Eulabes*).

Very like the Common Myna in appearance is the Jungle Myna (*Æthiopsai fuscus*). It is distinguishable by a small tuft of feathers in front of the head, etc., having no yellow patch round the eye. Oates states that it is found all over India in hills and well-wooded parts of the country. I have met with it only in the Hills. It is common both in the Himalayas and the Nilgiris, frequently associating with *Acridotheres tristis.* During the seven years I have spent in the plains of Northern and Southern India I have not seen a single *Æthiopsai.*

Acridotheres ginginienus—the Bank Myna—has the appearance of being a colour variation of the Common Myna. It is slaty grey, where *A. tristis* is reddish brown, and buff where the common form is white. The patch of bare skin round about the eye is bright red, I might almost say crimson. This species is confined to the northern parts of India. It is not so ond of human habitation as is the Common Myna, and breeds in colonies in holes in river banks or wells. Hence its various names—Bank Myna, Well Myna, and River Myna. Like the Common Myna, in company with which it is often found, it feeds in flocks on the ground.

Another familiar Myna is the pretty little Brahmany or Black-headed Myna (*Temenuchus pagodarum*). Oates states that this species is distributed over "the whole of India proper as far east as the longitude of Calcutta." This statement is not correct. During the twenty-six months I spent at Lahore I did not see a single Black-headed Myna. I do not think it is found in the western portions of the Punjab. *Temenuchus pagodarum* is a dapper little bird. Some people consider it very beautiful, but in my opinion its appearance is spoiled by its thick neck. It has a black crest which is rarely, if ever, erected, but hangs down the bird's neck like a pig-tail. The general hue of the plumage is grey, becoming buff on the breast and sides of the head. It is less of a ground feeder than the various *Acridotheres*. The nest is an evil-smelling conglomeration of rubbish, deposited in a hole in a tree or building. I find in my notes the following record: "A pair of these birds has just successfully reared up a family in rather a curious place in the Fort (at Madras), namely, in a hole through one of the cornices of the church spire, made for the passage of the lightning conductor. It was amusing to watch the parents squeeze through the narrow aperture with grubs for their chicks."

The Pied Myna or Pied Starling (*Sturnopastor contra*), as Jerdon calls him, is abundant throughout the United Provinces, Bengal and Assam. As its name implies it is a black bird with considerable leaven of white. The cheeks, rump, and lower parts are white, and there is much white in the tail. The orbital skin is yellow as is the basal portion of the bill. This bird hunts in flocks and is usually found in company with the Common and Bank Mynas. It loves the haunts of man. Unlike the other Starlings I have described it does not nest in holes. The nursery is a shapeless mass of straw, rags, paper, grass, etc., lined with feathers. The entrance is effected at the side. Jewe writes: "If a babool—preferentially one in the middle of a native village—is handy it is selected (as the site) but almost any tree will do if that fails. When I say that the babool is a thorny tree (an acacia) which affords scarcely any cover, and that the nest is rarely placed at any great height from the ground, the confiding nature of *Sturnopastor contra* will be appreciated. It should be added that native boys are not addicted to egg-collecting.

Once, when inspecting the jail at Gouda, I noticed some Pied Mynas nesting in a low tree in one of the jail quadrangles. This paper has reached such a length that I feel that I ought not to say much about what I may call the honorary members of the Starling Club—the Eulabes or Talking Mynas, or Hill Mynas as they are almost invariably called in India. Moreover, these are denizens of the forests which cover the Hills and, as I have already said, my duties have kept me chiefly in the burnt-up plains, so that I know these birds only in captivity. A more amusing pet does not exist. A well-trained bird will imitate to perfection any sound from the squeak of an unoiled cart wheel (a very common sound in India!) to the expectoratory efforts of a coolie (a still more common sound!) More I need not say; all who have not made the acquaintance of the Talking Myna should pay a visit to "Tommy," whose address is: Bird of Paradise House, Zoological Gardens, Regent's Park, N.W.

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Dr. Hopkinson's Aviary.

By E. Hopkinson, M.A., M.B., D.S.O.

The accompanying photographs show the design of a new aviary which I have had built this summer to replace an old one, which after an existence of nineteen years. had at last reached the stage when its removal was necessary to prevent its complete collapse. In designing the new one my chief aim was to circumvent the mice with which the old place was absolutely overrun, in spite of hanging food-tins and the use of traps. To effect this the far end of the aviary is boarded off to form a house with a raised floor, (2 ft. 4 in. from the ground) and with a three feet opening into the flight surrounded on all sides by at least 18 inches of zinc, up which no mouse ought to be able to get. There is also a window opening to the outside covered with mouse-proof square mesh wire netting and closed when necessary by a moveable glass shutter. The floor of the house is of zinc-covered wood, strong enough to support a man's weight; all the corners and joints are closely fitted and mouse-proof, and none of the outside perches are fixed near the entrance, so that it is impossible for anything which cannot fly to get in through the opening. In this house are all the food trays, not a single seed being allowed outside. I find that the birds soon learn to find the food and fly in and out the house freely, the only precaution necessary being to shut new arrivals into the house for the first few hours till they have had at least one feed there.

The remainder of the aviary forms an earth-floored flight, half of which is roofed with wood and half with ordinary half-inch wire netting, and inside the door is a semi-porch of netting, which is just enough to prevent birds escaping when one enters the aviary.

The photographs show the position of the aviary against a South wall, in a small town garden, and I need only add the dimensions: length 16 feet, of which the house takes 4 feet, the flight 12 feet, 6 feet roofed and 6 feet open; breadth 6 feet; height 9 feet at back and 6 feet 6 inches in front. The old aviary was covered, and in its latter days mainly held together by a dense growth of Jesamine; what could be saved of this can be seen in the photograph, and will, I hope, soon grow up again and once more cover the, at present, somewhat bare-looking roof.

This account of the means by which I believe I have dodged the wily rodent may be of use to some of our members, and therefore I give this short description of the aviary as it is at present, when it is quite free from mice, a condition which I hope will continue.

Notes on the Assumption of Seasonal Plumage in Orange Bishop.

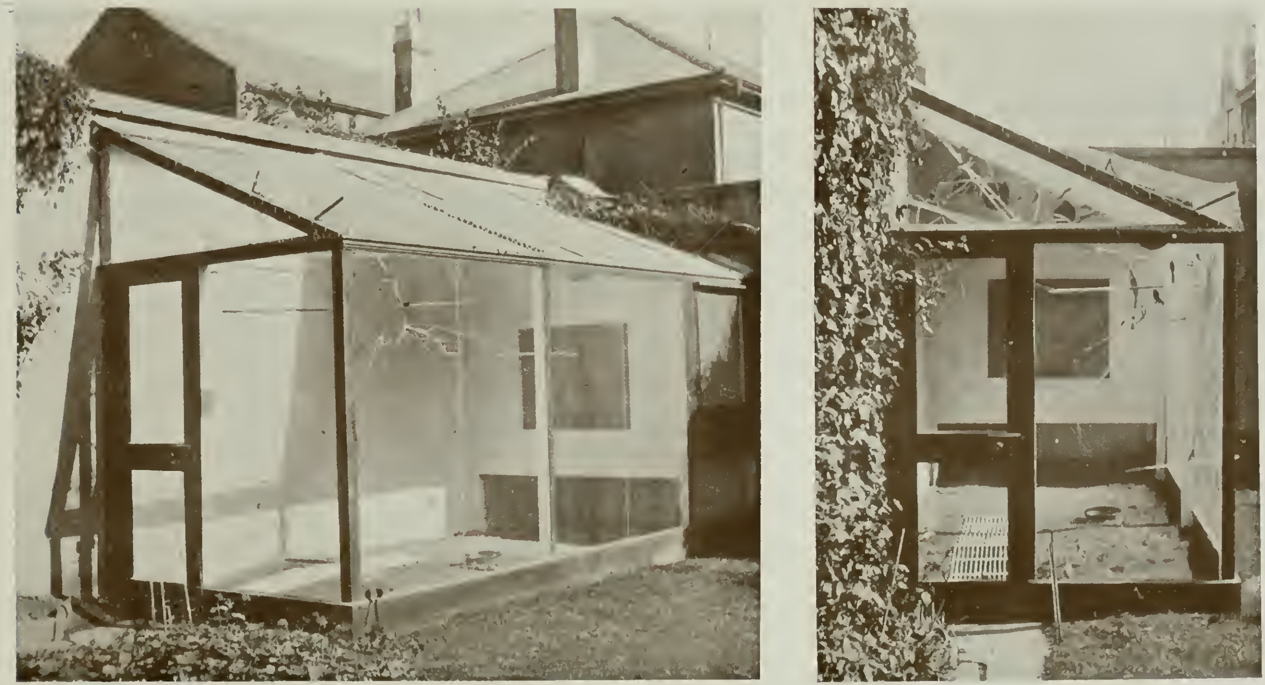
By F. Howe.

In the May number of *Bird Notes* our Editor asks for notes on the change of plumage in Weavers. I have often seen it stated in works on Foreign Birds that the change is brought about by a growth of colour in the plumage itself, and not by a moult. Our Editor instances the Madagascar Weaver. Of this species I can say nothing, for although I have at times possessed several specimens, they were so wild (in cages) that I was soon glad to get rid of them.

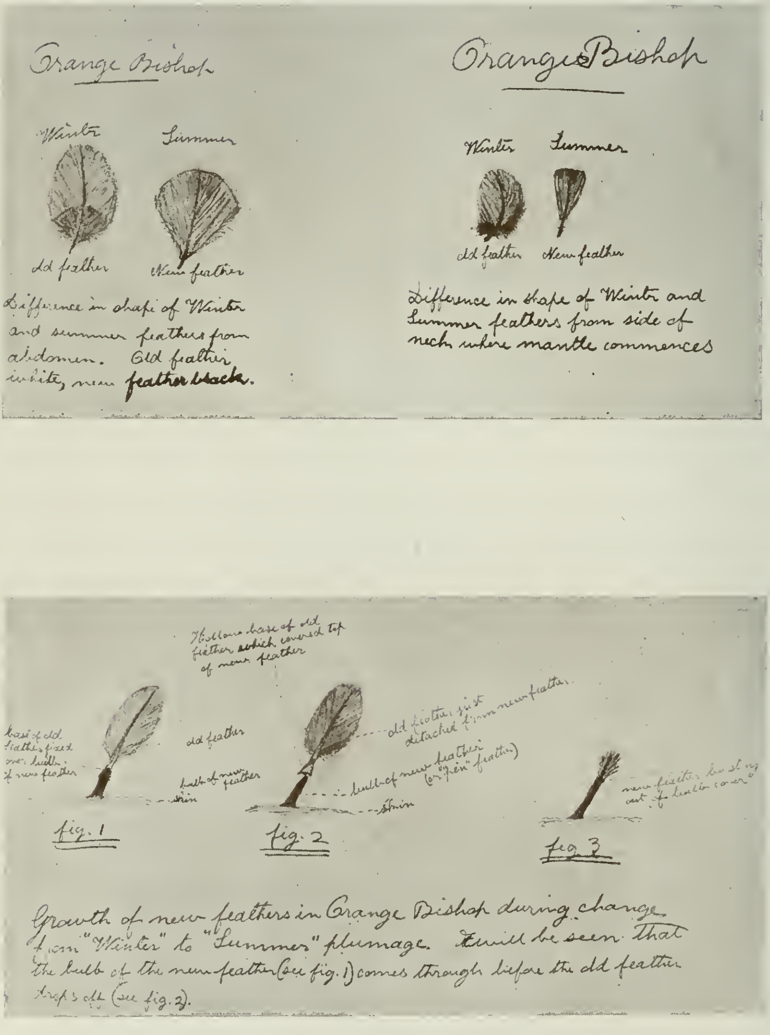
But with regard to the Orange Weaver or Bishop, I have found that with every specimen I have kept, the change of colour, either to summer or winter plumage, has been brought about by a moult. This was also the case with two Grenadier Weavers I have possessed.

It may at first seem strange that these changes have not been noticed before by those who have kept any of the Weaver family. But as Weavers are generally kept in aviaries—perhaps to give them opportunities of nest-weaving—it is the more difficult to properly observe the mode of transformation from winter to nuptial plumage. It is therefore not at all surprising that this matter has not yet been satisfactorily cleared up.

One well-known writer states that "the change takes place by the tips of the brown feathers changing colour, and a multitude of small tinted feathers growing between the old feathers." Does it not seem strange that a "multitude of small feathers" should grow *between* the old ones? New feathers are not so produced!



DR. HOPKINSON'S AVIARY.


Orange Bishop
Winter
Summer
Old feather
New feather
Orange Bishop
Winter
Summer
Old feather
New feather
Hollow base of old feather which covered top of new feather
base of old feather fixed over bulb of new feather
old feather
bulb of new feather
skin
old feather just detached from new feather
bulb of new feather (or "pin" feather)
skin
new feather bursting out of bulb cover
fig. 1
fig. 2
fig. 3

Difference in shape of Winter and summer feathers from abdomen. Old feather white, new feather black.

Difference in shape of Winter and Summer feathers from side of neck where mantle commences

Growth of new feathers in Orange Bishop during change from "Winter" to "Summer" plumage. It will be seen that the bulb of the new feather (see fig. 1) comes through before the old feather drops off (see fig. 2).

Different stages in the growth of feather of Orange Bishop during the seasonal change of plumage.

Another writer says "the upper tail coverts, which are short in the season of retirement, and the flank feathers towards the hinder end of the body are always moulted out to make room for the long and delicate plumes which often envelope the tail . . . . . but, undoubtedly, most of the plumage changes in tint day by day until it attains its full brilliance." This (latter) writer admits that the upper tail coverts and hinder flank feathers are moulted out to make room for the new long and delicate plumes. Then why not also the feathers of the body and head?

It is not only a question of change of colour—but also a change in the length and shape of the feathers.

Take, for example, the Orange Bishop. This Weaver, when in *winter* plumage, is feathered similar to a Finch, with the feathers lying almost flat to the neck. But when in *summer* or breeding plumage the feathers of the neck are much *longer*, and stick out in the form of a "ruffle. But the small black feathers of the head, in summer, are shorter than the winter plumage, which applies in the same way to the black feathers (summer) of the lower breast and abdomen. Then there are the long orange plumes of the tail coverts alluded to by the last-mentioned writer. How, then, do we get the *longer* feathers of the neck and round the tail, and the *shorter* plush-like feathers of the head and under parts if it is not brought about by a moult?

Seeing that the question has been brought up in Editorial Notes, knowing that a friend of mine (Mr. Wallington) had bought an Orange Bishop last year (1907), I decided to ask him to lend me the bird for the purpose of making observations. The bird was purchased from a dealer during the first week in November 1907, and was then in *full "summer" plumage.* It lost its bright orange and black plumage in March 1908, and donned its so-called "winter" plumage. My friend lent the Weaver to me in the second week of June. Towards the end of July I noticed that it began to lose its sober winter plumage, and found several feathers in its cage.

On August 5th I caught the Orange Bishop up, and on examining it found a good number of *new orange-coloured "pen" feathers* growing on different parts of the body,—mostly on the flanks, round the tail, and just a few on the throat.

For the purpose of keeping specimens of the feathers I got some small cardboard pill boxes, each of which I have marked "O. B." (Orange Bishop), with a number on each to correspond with the number and date of notes taken. *

August 8th.—Took new orange-coloured feathers, which were about half developed, from upper part of breast.

Three new orange feathers—half-developed—from flank.

Four new orange feathers—just broken out of the "pen" (or "fin") form—from side of tail.

August 12th.—Examined Orange Bishop, and found a bunch of small black feathers near each nostril, most of which were fully developed, and three or four in the "pen" state of development.

Also found a number of small new black feathers just coming next to the eye cere (the *old* feathers being yellowish). With a lens the small feathers could plainly be seen in their different stages of growth.

The black feathers of the abdomen were also showing, some of which were about half-developed.

On the throat many "pen" feathers were through; and on the back I found several half-developed orange-brown feathers.

The under tail coverts were growing fast, and I took out three of them—one just out of the "pen" stage, one half developed, and another nearly fully developed.

August 17th.—This day I found some new black feathers showing through on the front part of the head, but were not long enough to take out.

Took new half-developed orange-brown feather from the back or saddle.

Took one new black feather—nearly fully developed,—and two only about half-developed from side.

Took two new feathers (orange) from upper tail coverts—nearly half-developed.

August 20th.—Found a good number of new orange-brown feathers of the back now all but fully developed, and others only about half so.

Also found new black feathers had come through over the crown. And whilst turning back the feathers with the tweezers four of the old (winter plumage) feathers *came out with the bulbs of the new feathers attached.* Also one old feather *with bulb attached* from side of lower breast.

I have noticed this before in Weavers, especially in a Grenadier Weaver which I had in 1906. This bird I once caught up from the aviary to see how far it had advanced in colour, and on the bird trying to escape by turning his head through my fingers, several of the old feathers came out from the back of its neck, and I found that *each of them had the bulb of the new orange feather attached to the base of the old feather.* Upon examining the other feathers, I found that most of them were the same, which showed that new feathers, in the "pen" form, CAME THROUGH BEFORE THE OLD FEATHERS FELL OFF.

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* I have examined the feathers in the respective boxes and find them to agree with the descriptions given.—Ed.

August 21st.—Throat of Bishop now nearly covered with new orange feathers in different stages of development.

New black feathers of lower breast and abdomen developing fast.

August 24th.—New black feathers of head now quite clear for just over $\frac{1}{4}$ inch from nostrils, and new feathers developing fast all over the crown and back of head.

Took three old feathers, *with new orange bulb attached*, from side of neck; and the three old feathers, *with black bulb attached* from lower breast.

As I now had specimens of feathers (of the Orange Bishop) from most parts of the birds I left it for some days.

September 4th.—All old feathers now shed from forehead and crown. Nearly all new orange feathers now round neck, including "ruffle," the latter mostly half-developed feathers, *these not lying flat with surface of skin, but sticking out almost straight therefrom.*

Took four old (white) feathers from abdomen with bulb of new black feather attached.

September 10th.—The head, throat, neck, and upper breast now clear of old feathers, but still showing a number of "pen" feathers in different stages of growth. Abdomen still showing a row of old feathers down each side giving a rough appearance similar to a rough sided crest-bred canary. Most of these old feathers, I noticed, *were attached to the ends of the new feathers*, which were already through nearly $\frac{1}{4}$ inch. This added length would no doubt cause the roughness of the plumage at the side.

None of the wing (either flight or coverts), or tail feathers had yet been shed. Only a few old feathers remained on the back, and rump and under tail quite clear of old feathers. The new long orange plumes now reaching almost to the end of the old tail feathers.

I returned the Orange Bishop to my friend on October 3rd, but still none of the wing or tail feathers had dropped out. The bird was in full plumage, looking very fine, with a good ruffle round the neck.

I have made some sketches so as to better illustrate the growth and development of the new feathers, and also to show the different shapes of the "winter" and "summer" feathers.

It will be noticed that there is a hollow at the base of the *old* feather which has just become detached from the bulb of the new feather. In a small box I have a large number of old feathers which I found in the cage in which the Orange Bishop was kept, and at the base of each feather there is a hollow which had covered the top of the new feather.

In writing the above I do not offer it as a proof that *all* Weavers don their nuptial plumage in the same way as the Orange Bishop and Grenadier Weaver. But in a Paradise Whydah I had this year, which I kept in a small aviary, found that the change from winter to summer plumage was brought about by a complete moult. I caught up the bird several times to make sure of the growth of new feathers, and found many new feathers coming through each time. It was a newly-imported bird when I bought it in June, out of colour, and it had the *flight, larger wing coverts*, and *tail very badly frayed and worn* (as most newly-imported birds have). But now all the wings and tail feathers are *perfect in shape and form*, and of an intense black, which is a further proof that they are new feathers.

[While with many species of Weavers and Whydahs, the seasonal change of plumage is brought about as indicated in the above notes, there are other species in which it is only partially so, and again others in which the change is due almost entirely to a growth of colour in the plumage and not to the production of new feathers. This colour growth is more common than I think is generally supposed, in many cases, nestlings come into partially mature plumage without the shedding of a feather, I may cite one case the hybrid Mannikins reared in my aviary the past two seasons. Many others could be cited, but the matter merits more extended observation generally. Will our members make such, and publish their data in this journal?—Ed.]

The Red-headed Finch.

(*Amadina erythrocephala*).

By R. Suggitt.

It is rather surprising that more successes in the breeding of the Red-headed Finch have not been recorded, as the species has been quite plentiful during the last two or three years.

It appears to be the general experience that this bird is more difficult to induce to breed in captivity than its near relation the Ribbon Finch, but in my short experience the reverse has been the case. With the several pairs of the latter which I have from time to time possessed, I have been singularly unfortunate, and young have only been fully reared on one occasion, whereas my pair of Red-heads rear their young with ease and have been quite prolific.

I procured them in October, 1907, and as they were acclimatized specimens, and reputed to be quite hardy they were turned out of doors at once. Nests were built and eggs laid in quite alarming numbers, but no serious attempt at incubation was made, and fearing that the hen might become egg-bound I took the birds into an indoor flight for the winter. Here again a great many eggs were laid, often on the floor, and in April, when I decided to turn them out again, the hen was sitting so tenaciously in a rush nest on five eggs, that she allowed me to take the nest outside, without making any attempt to leave it.

In the outdoor aviary, about a fortnight afterwards, they were again sitting in a husk. I did not anticipate any result, and when I afterwards saw them looking for another site I took it as a matter of course. Upon examining their old nest however I found it to contain one infertile egg, two dried up youngsters which had probably died soon after they were hatched, and one large well developed bird, apparently over a week old, as the wing feathers had commenced to grow. It was dead, and its crop was filled with husked canary and millet seeds. This was far more than I expected to find in the nest, and was decidedly encouraging.

The skin of the naked nestling is purplish brown, darker nearer the region of the throat ; down grey ; gape line creamy white, and the palate is curiously marked with a network pattern of white on a dark blue ground.

The nests are always built in frantic haste. Both birds carry the material and fly to the nest at the same time, and if one selects a piece of hay first, it waits until the other has got a suitable piece. The nest is usually completed in one day if there is sufficient lining material, but feathers are added to the lining when incubation has commenced, and even when young are hatched. The eggs are pure white. Both sexes incubate by turns.

Early in June young had evidently hatched again, as the old birds were constantly visiting the soft food and then the nest. On June 20th I ventured to put my finger into the entrance of the husk and felt fully feathered young scramble to the back of the nest. On June 26th, three young ones were out of the nest flying strongly, a male and two females, another female I found dead on the floor. They were independent of their parents about three weeks after leaving the nest.

On August 10th three young ones came out of another nest built in a flower-pot, again a male and two females. These hatched on July 20th, so that they were exactly three weeks old when they left the nest.

Upon leaving the nest, the young ones are but little inferior in size to their parents, and the sex is at once apparent, the young male having a red head, slightly paler than that of his father. Their beaks are dark. As the old birds commence to build another nest before the young are able to look after themselves, I have not been able to make a close comparison, but the young females appear to resemble their mother in the spangling of their breasts, less than the young males resemble their father. These markings are certainly less distinct in the young females than in the males, while between the two adults there is not so great a difference.

The young have been reared almost entirely on soft-food with perhaps a little seed. I have never seen the parents anxious to catch insects. Gentles have always been available, and a few have been eaten occasionally, but the birds do not appear to be at all fond of them.

The male is by far the better feeder, and after the young have left the nest they usually look to him for their food. The voices of the young when being fed are remarkably coarse.

At the present time (September 17th) there is another nest of young ones in the flower-pot where the second brood was reared. The old birds merely added a few feathers to the lining before the eggs were laid.

My Aviaries and their Inmates.

By S. Beaty.

MR. S. BEATY AND HIS PET CANARY-WING PARRAKEET.

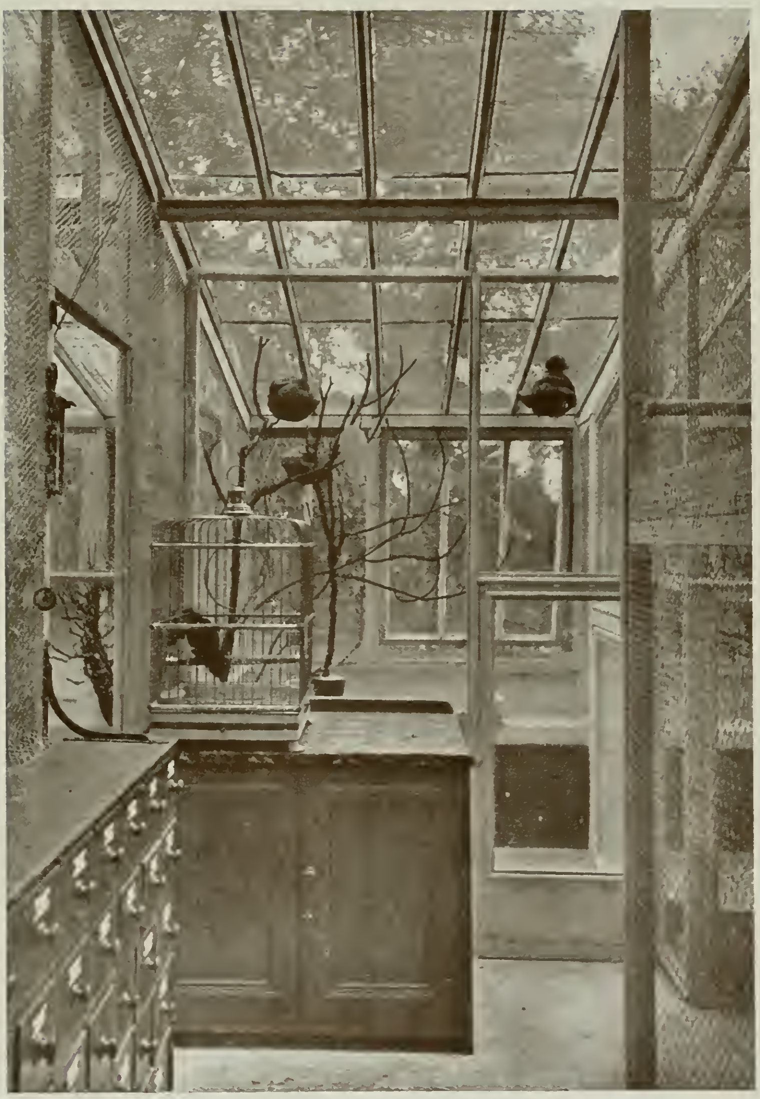
My aviaries are in a 17ft. by 12ft. lean-to greenhouse facing West, and the entrance is from the house. Our esteemed Editor kindly suggested plans for converting same into a series of aviaries or enclosures. I have a service of hot water pipes for heating during the winter, and recently I have had two-thirds of the glass roof covered with asphaltic roofing felt, and find the consequent sacrifice of direct light more than compensated for by the even temperature thereby obtained.

As regards the inmates of the various enclosures; as you enter the aviaries, directly facing you is an enclosure containing several pairs of Budgerigars, an Alexandrine Ring-neck, and a Yellow-winged Parrakeet. I have had bad luck with Budgerigars this season, having had plenty of fertile eggs but never any young. I supplied cocoa-nut husks for nesting, and was particularly unfortunate with the last clutch deposited therein by a couple of Yellows. In order to make a slight alteration in the aviary it became necessary to remove the husk they had chosen, and in doing so I unfortunately disturbed the hen, with the result that she refused to return to her maternal duties. Another day or two would have seen the youngsters out of their shells.

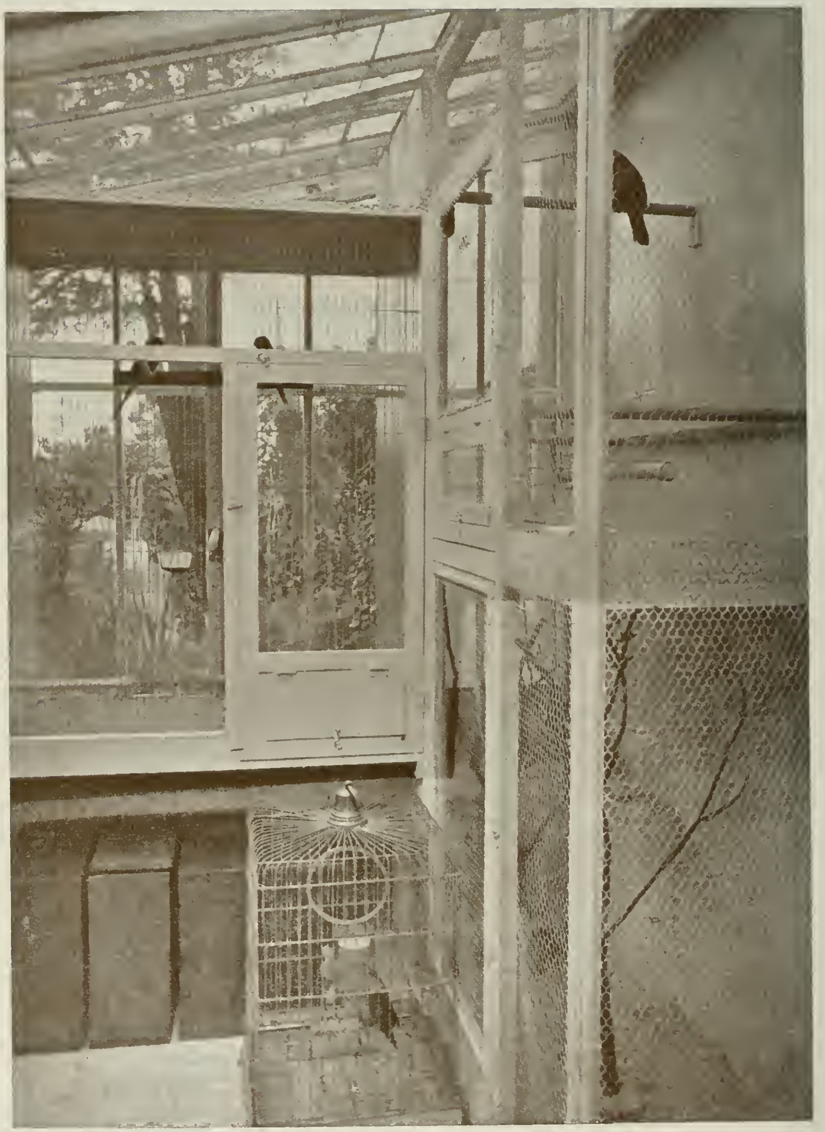
The Alexandrine Ringneck, a recent arrival, is a fine specimen of his kind. The remaining occupant, a Yellow-winged Parrakeet, is a merry, good-tempered little fellow, and the tamest bird I have ever possessed. He will readily come on to your finger and eat out of your hand. When first I introduced him to the Budgerigars they were inclined to bully him, but once having accustomed himself to his surroundings he asserted himself, and can now comfortably hold his own.

On a stand in front of this aviary is a cage containing a pair of Pileated Parrakeets (*P. spurius*) at present in excellent condition, but unfortunately rather unsteady. When I first had them I put them in an aviary and they were very wild, the entrance of anyone into the aviaries being the signal for them to dash themselves wildly against the wire netting protecting the glass. But they have quieted down wonderfully in the few months I have had them, and now after moulting look very different birds to when they arrived. They are firm believers in the virtues of cold water, and generously besprinkle themselves and the surrounding objects every morning. I now keep them in a large square parrot cage to get them steady, and hope to exhibit them this season. They eat well, and are exceedingly fond of apple.

In striking contrast to the Parrakeets is the occupant of the adjacent cage, a Ceram Lory. Although he always takes an interest in what is going on around him, he rarely allows anything to unduly disturb him, and views the approach of strangers with the utmost indifference. He stands a long and tiring train journey like an old campaigner, and when I unpack him on his return from his travels, he invariably greets me with a friendly squawk before climbing soberly back into his cage again. He has a great idea of his own importance, and insists on being fed first. As he requires fruit, sunflower seed, and sop food, his *déjeuner* necessarily takes some little time to prepare, but until all his needs are supplied he keeps up an ear-piercing whistle, which undoubtedly has a great deal to do with bringing about the desired result. If another bird is fed first he shows temper and screeches abominably. Possibly he thinks the occasion warrants it. At ordinary times he has a loud clear call, is a very fair mimic, and with his beautiful colour (a deep rich crimson) and intelligent ways is certainly an acquisition to the aviaries.



MR. S. BEATY'S GREENHOUSE AVIARIES.



MR. S. BEATY'S GREENHOUSE AVIARIES.

The enclosure on the left is devoted to British birds and contains, amongst others, Goldfinch, Linnets, Twite, Redpoll, Greenfinches, and Bullfinches, the latter being so tame they will hardly move out of your way when you are cleaning. One of them was the first prize winner at the Crystal Palace this year, among the keenest competition.

On the right is an aviary in which I have hen British and cock mules; one a six-pointed light Goldfinch-Canary mule.

To the right of the entrance is a large cage containing a Green-billed Toucan (*Ramphastos dicolorus*).* He is a very interesting bird, useful as well as ornamental, for he acts the part of a watch-dog with great zeal, and when anyone passes the aviary greets them with his discordant bray. When roosting he manages to lose his huge beak in his night flue, and hoists his tail as a shield. He is very fond of soft fruit and possesses a healthy appetite. Underneath him is a Magpie Tanager; he is very tame and will readily take mealworms and fruit from your hand.

To the left of the entrance are two aviaries, in one of which is a Gold-fronted *Chloropsis*, and in the other a pair of Black-headed Gouldians, a beautiful little couple, but I am sorry to say I have not yet succeeded in breeding with them.

The last but not the least of my avian friends is a Blue-fronted Amazon Parrot; a born gossip he takes the greatest interest in all his neighbours' concerns. The slightest squabble among them instantly arouses his ire, and he scolds, admonishes, and rumbles long after the trouble is over. When he sings it is in a high cracked voice, so like to an old woman's that visitors who can only hear and not see are invariably deceived. Though garrulous in his own language he is very saving of his English, but I make no doubt that like another noted bird he "thinks a lot." My latest acquisition is a Hoopoe, of which I have not much to say at present, save that it is very tame and a beautiful bird.

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* There was a coloured plate of this species in Vol. VI. *Bird Notes*.

Some Recent Acquisitions.

By WESLEY T. PAGE, F.Z.S., M.B.N.H.S.

(Continued from page 172).

THE MALABAR GREEN BULBUL (*Chloropsis malabarica*).* This fine species is commonly sold as the Gold-fronted Chloropsis, the better name is Malabar Harewa, they are almost as well known in this country as Fruitsuckers as by the designation Green Bulbul, the latter appellation being, in my opinion, the better as a popular name for this country, though to call them Harewas would perhaps be more correct, as they certainly are not true Bulbuls. The specimen in question was brought over by Capt. Perreau in the spring of this year, was for a time on deposit at the Zoo, coming into my possession in late July, since when it has shared one of my outdoor bird-room enclosures with an old favourite, a very fine Shâma. Since coming into my possession it has been very fit, and has never ailed at all; morning, noon, and night, its loud and merry song can be heard,while for its fearless and confiding demeanour it stands unrivalled. It was amusing to watch them, when it was first introduced, a few mealworms would be thrown in, down would come the Shâma and stand over them glowering, with wings and tail outspread, apparently bidding defiance to all, the Bulbul would drop flop from the branches overhead, take a mealworm from under the very beak of the Shâma, hop on to the first branch, dispose of it and then repeat the operation, Mr. Shâma from very astonishment unable to prevent him. In a few days the Shâma got accustomed to the others' audacity and then there were one or two scrimmages when mealworms were about, but after a few days they grew to mutually respect one another, and though they do not fraternise, yet they live together in peace.

The Malabar has a large appetite, disposes of about a dozen mealworms daily, a good portion of ripe fruit and takes his full share from the soft food saucer as well.

As cage pets they are without an equal, but being large eaters their cages require constant attention to keep them sweet; also the cage should be of generous proportions or fits will result, the bird becoming over fat from lack of exercise, a fly round the room occasionally will counteract the effects of somewhat confined quarters. They speedily become tame, will take food readily from your fingers, and are always merry and fit, providing they are not kept in confined quarters.

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* *Aurifrons* may readily be distinguished by its *blue throat.*

This genus rivals in gorgeous colouring the Tanagers, Sugar Birds and Lories, the species in question being almost one of the least gorgeously apparelled of the genus.

Description: *Adult male.* General body colouring, shining grass-green; shoulder of wing turquoise blue; forehead and front of crown rich orange; sides of face, throat, and fore-neck black, with two moustachial streaks of brilliant azure blue, while the black throat is narrowly bordered with yellow, which is gradually lost in the green of the under surface; bill black; legs and feet pale plumbeous. Length over all eight inches, of which the tail measures 2¾ inches.

According to Jerdon the female has the black of the neck of smaller extent and she lacks the golden forehead of the male.

He also states that this species is found in the forests of Malabar, in Wynaad, Coorg, Neilgherries up to 4,000 feet; and more rarely on the Eastern Ghats, and the forests of Central India.

* * *

THE BRAZILIAN HANGNEST (*Icterus jamacaii*). These handsome, fearless, and confiding creatures, do not call for much comment in these notes, as they have already been commented upon in an earlier issue, and practically the same eulogy may justly be paid them that I have already bestowed upon the Malabar Harewa. I may however say in passing, that once over the hardships of importation, they are a hardy species, and are usually long lived in captivity when rightly treated. A diet of fruit, soft food and a few live insects will suffice to keep these fine and handsome birds in perfect condition. A little milksop occasionally makes a wholesome change but it must not be permitted to turn sour. Some individuals become so tame that they will perch all over your person and seem to enjoy being handled, run up your sleeve, enter your pocket, etc. But I must not linger, these notes are already too long and I wish others of our members to tell the story of the demeanour, etc. of their avian family.

* * *

Black-headed Sibias (*Malacias capistrata*). I was fortunate in procuring the only true pair among the five or six specimens which our esteemed member Capt. Perreau brought over this spring. It is a very handsome species, but should not be kept with birds smaller or weaker than itself. They were immature when they came into my possession and much paler and less lustrous than the adult bird. At the present time they are partially through the moult, but as this is not yet complete I purpose leaving sexual distinctions till a later issue. A full description of plumage was given in *Bird Notes*, Vol. VI. ante p. 242, and Mrs. Warren Vernon has also given an account of her partial success in rearing this species in current Vol. ante p. 148. They were very wild at first but are now much more docile, but they cannot yet be described as confiding birds. Diet: Fruit, soft food, and mealworms or other insects.

* * *

Peaceful Doves (*Geopelia tranquilla*). These have been known for so long a period that they hardly merit a notice here, but I do not think they have yet been described in *Bird Notes*, so I give them just a passing notice. It was quite late in July when they reached me and so far, beyond carrying a bent or two about, they have not attempted to nest. Our esteemed members, Messrs. Teschemaker and Willford have both succeeded in breeding this species in their aviaries this season. The Peacefuls have so far belied their name as to be continually sparring with my old pair of Diamond Doves, and have been responsible for the throwing out of the nest of one pair of their young and the destruction of one clutch of eggs. They are very affectionate to one another and spend a considerable time daily caressing each other and preening one another's plumage. The display of the ♂ is very similar to that of the Diamond Dove.

Description: Upper surface ashy-brown, each feather narrowly edged with black at the extremity; head and throat grey; breast, sides and back of neck grey, narrowly barred with black; abdomen and flanks vinous; central tail feathers brown, the remainder black broadly tipped with white; primaries dark brown; bill and orbits bright greyish-blue, with the suspicion of a greenish tinge; legs and feet parti-coloured, greenish grey in front, ruddy flesh-colour behind. Total length barely 9 inches, tail 4 inches.

Habitat: Central and Northern Australia.

* * *

Many of these "recent acquisitions" having now become established occupants of my aviaries, these notes must now draw to a conclusion; they have been continued to an extent never contemplated when they were commenced. I can only hope they have been of sufficient interest and utility to some of my readers, to in some measure compensate for the space they have occupied in "Our Journal."

Editorial.

NESTING NOTES: Our esteemed member, Mr. Mathias, has been very successful with his Australian Finches. He has already had one brood of six from his Long-tailed Grass Finches (*Poephila acuticauda*) all fully reared, and has another brood all but ready to leave the nest, apparently another six judging from the number of beaks visible. He is the happy possessor of a brood of young Crimson Finches (*Neochmia phœton*), four in number, which left the nest on October 18th. They have black beaks, light brown bodies, flights tinged with red, and tails mostly red. They have the same flick of the tail as their parents; they are now (Oct. 26th) beginning to pick up for themselves, though the old birds still feed them. Mr. Mathias is to be congratulated on his success, and there appears to be every probability of them all being successfully reared to maturity. Mr. Willford has been equally successful with several species of Australian Finches, etc. We hope to have detailed articles from the pens of both gentlemen in our next issue.

PURPLE-CAPPED LORIES: Mr. Millsum has once more to write the word failure against yet another attempt of his Purple Caps to reproduce their kind. Two eggs were laid in a corner of the room, an apparently perfect nesting log being ignored, and the hen sat closely, only coming off when the room was entered; they were left strictly alone, the room only being entered for feeding, etc. But it was not to be; after closely sitting a full fourteen days, he found the corner deserted and the eggs had vanished, a careful search only revealing a small piece of shell. The Purple-caps had had eggs for breakfast! This makes the fourth failure, when there seemed a probable chance of success and it is very disappointing.

THE REARING OF WOOD SWALLOWS: From various notes kindly sent me by our esteemed member, Mr. E. J. Brook, I have compiled the following. The birds after being some time in the aviary duly mated; a piece of a tree root, with a rotten cup-shaped hollow in it, was wired close up against one of the roof joists and was soon appropriated, a few bits of sticks constituting the nest. The first egg was clear, after an interval another was laid which was unfortunately broken, four days later another was laid from which a young chick was duly hatched after being incubated about fourteen days. The young bird left the nest when fourteen days old. Both birds fed the young one, but the cock principally. It was reared on mealworms, but many flies were captured and given to it. It was first observed to pick up a little food for itself when five weeks old, but did not feed itself to any extent till it was seven or eight weeks old. The young birds hatched at Zoo thirty-seven years ago, only lived to be barely five weeks old (see note in September issue) and it is extremely doubtful if they were then independent of their parents. Mr. Brook's success is the more noteworthy in that the young bird has lived to assume adult plumage. On October 17th it was practically indistinguishable from its parents. Nesting plumage: General body colouring dirty grey, lighter on the under surface, more or less striped with dull greyish-yellow; beak, legs and feet horn-coloured; the beak is very short. Mr. Brook is to be congratulated on his success, which we may hope will be repeated next season, that the foregoing interesting facts may be confirmed or variations duly noted.

THE FAIRY BLUE-BIRD (*Irena turcosa*): This gorgeous and delightful species now imported by Mr. Goodfellow for the first time, is worthy of more than a passing notice, for it is among the most brilliant of birds and of a colour that is not by any means numerous, for nature appears to have been rather sparing of her blues. It is not a small species, measuring 10 inches over all, tail 4 inches. In contour it is very similar to the Oriole, it has a loud and melodious warble which is constantly uttered, and judging from the accounts of various travellers and naturalists must indeed be a fascinating bird to meet in its native wilds, and equally so in the roomy cage or aviary. Beautiful as it is in repose, this is far exceeded when it is seen with expanded wings and tail as it flies from branch to branch feeding the while on various luscious fruits. In the aviary this display of gorgeous plumage would be very fine and a sight long to be remembered, but I fear for some time to come it will gladden the vision of only a few.

The adult male has the whole of the upper surface and also the under tail-coverts refulgent cobalt-blue, with the wings, tail and entire under-surface glistering velvet black.

The female is of a duller blue, entirely lacking the refulgence of the male, she has no black areas, her plumage being entirely blue, slightly mottled. Nevertheless she also is a beautiful bird, but dull by comparison with her more brilliantly clad lord.

Jerdon, in his "Birds of India," describing *puella*, states that it is found in the dense and lofty forests of Malabar and Travancore, also in

Assam, Arakan and Burmah, and that it ascends mountain ranges up to 4,000 feet and upwards, and lives in parties of five, six, or more, frequenting the loftiest trees near the summit, and wandering from tree to tree—its food consists of various fruits with occasional insects.

The Malayan race (*I. malayensis*) differs in having the under tail coverts reaching to the end of the tail—this species is figured in Horsfield's Zool. Res. in Java.

Yet another species (*I. cyanogastra*) from the Philippines is figured in "Gray's Genera of Birds."

The five birds recently imported by Mr. Goodfellow were captured in Java.

NOTE: Pressure upon our space compels us to hold over Notices of New Books and items for the Month's Arrivals till next issue.

Correspondence.

BREEDING PARROT AND GOULDIAN FINCHES.

SIR,—I have been very fortunate with my Parrot and Gouldian Finches this year.

The Parrot Finches have had three nests, and have reared nine young ones; they are now (Oct. 11th) all in a large cage, as I did not wish the old birds to nest again.

As to Gouldians, I have six fine youngsters, six weeks old, out of one nest, from a Red-head ♂ and Black-head ♀: the young birds are now in a cage and the parents are nesting again. I have two other young ones the same age from a pair of Black-heads.

The first pair of Gouldians nested in a cocoa-nut husk in the flight. I have now removed all nesting receptacles from the flight, as I do not wish them to build again outside on account of bad weather coming. I still leave the aviary door open as the weather is very mild at present.

Oct. 11th, 1908. HELEN G. BROMET.

THE ANNUAL SLAUGHTER OF MIGRANTS.

SIR,—The terrible destruction of bird life against the Lighthouses in the Migratory season is sad to contemplate, and yet, I suppose, nothing can be done, or surely it would have been done before this. Is it known to many of our Members, I wonder, that *tens of thousands* of birds of all kinds meet their death against one lighthouse alone during the year? St. Catherine's (Isle of Wight) and Heligoland being particularly fatal. I have seen literally *heaps* of them brought in to our clever naturalist and taxidermist here, Mr. Bristow, for a few specimens to be set up for collections. Only yesterday he showed me Meadow Pipits, Gold-crests, Wagtails, Whitethroats, Wheatears, Redstarts, Garden Warblers, Blackcaps, Grasshopper

Warblers, Nightingales, Willow Wrens, Chiffchaffs, besides any amount of Blackbirds, Thrushes, Swallows, Robins, and sea birds of all sorts, indeed almost every wild bird one could name. Eighty had been brought in that morning alone, all in faultless plumage and condition.

Bird-trappers' destruction is just a drop in the ocean compared with this wholesale slaughter. I understand netting has been tried, but the swiftness of flight still renders the impact fatal. I do not understand, however, if it were wire or string netting, which latter might possibly make all the difference in the world. I should be glad if this appeal would arouse the sympathy and desire to help our feathered friends, I myself feel, among our members. (Mrs.) E. A. H. HARTLEY.

St. Helen's Lodge, Hastings.

THE COMING L.C.B.A. SHOW.

SIR,—May I be permitted as Chairman of the London Cage Bird Association to direct the attention of the members of the F. B. C. to our Show, that will be again held at the Royal Horticultural Hall, Vincent Square, Westminster, on Dec. 4th and 5th next. (See advt.)

The Club has, I am pleased to see, given its patronage; it now only remains for the individual members to make this, not a mere formality, but a real thing, by liberally supporting the Show with as many entries as possible. To those who do not know the Hall I may say that it is by far the best in London, if not in England, for a Bird Show: being light, warm, and free from draughts. Last year we had about 2000 birds, 160 of which were foreigners, and among the whole lot there was not a single death or, to the best of my belief, any mishap. The members' birds will be under the personal supervision of your hard working Show Secretary, Mr. Townsend, and their wants will be further attended to by a large staff of able and experienced men.

There are eleven classes for foreigners and many valuable special prizes in addition to the regular ones.

Your own member, Mr. Frank Finn, is the Judge.

I hope by this letter I have allayed any fears members might have as to how their birds will be treated, and that we shall have a record entry for the Foreign Section.

Thanking you for your kindness in allowing this to appear.

TINNISWOOD MILLER.

THE MONTH'S ARRIVALS.

SIR,—I am of the opinion that it would form an excellent feature if possible to include in our Magazine, month by month, under the above heading, some details of recent importations, if out of the common. The bird-market is a matter that all of us aviarists have to study and further, even if we are not purchasers, it is exceedingly interesting to note the different routes and conditions of importation, the different countries laid under contribution and the varying success attending each consignment. For this reason details of private as well as trade importations will be given if our members will assist by sending notes on this subject, and on this latter condition the success or failure of this feature of our Magazine will depend because of course only a limited number of species will come under the observation of any one member. W. E. TESCHEMAKER.

[The above feature appears to me likely to prove not merely interesting but also of practical utility. In our next issue I shall also hope to inaugurate "Notes on Continental Aviculture," culled from the Continental press. Both should prove useful and, I hope, permanent features in our Magazine.—ED.]

NESTING OF VIRGINIAN CARDINALS.

SIR,—My Virginians commenced sitting on May 8th; two young were hatched (the clutch consisted of three eggs) on May 20th, and they left the nest on May 30th; both were reared, but one escaped from the aviary. They again commenced to sit on two eggs on June 8th, two young were hatched on June 20th and left the nest on June 30th; one died when fourteen days old, the other at the age of ten weeks. They commenced incubating a third clutch of three eggs on July 10th, two young were hatched on July 22nd, which left the nest on August 1st, both were reared. They have again built a fourth nest but did not lay. J. HUME

The Month's Arrivals.

Among a consignment to Mr. J. D. Hamlyn of 127 birds from Natal, which arrived about the middle of October, two very interesting species may be noted—both probably new to aviculture—namely, two Coucals and four Scaly-fronted Finches.

The Coucals (*Centropus*, the *Vlei Louries* of the Boers) are closely allied to the Cuckoos. There are seven species, but I should judge these to be *C. superciliosus*. They are rather large birds with hooked beaks and curious crouching gait. They creep about in the thick bush near rivers and are said at home to feed on locusts and caterpillars, but it is significant that these are fed on meat and are especially fond of small dead birds. Though they have left their full tails at home, they are otherwise in excellent condition.

The Scaly-fronted Finch (*Sporopipes frontalis*) is somewhat larger than the Scaly-crowned Finch (*S. squamifrons*) and not quite so attractive in appearance. Two more were imported at the same time but are in other hands.

Mr. Hamlyn also received nearly a score of Rufous-backed Mannikins. Since those imported by Mr. Luer two years since, I have only heard of one of these charming little Mannikins reaching this country and that one was sent over privately. Nevertheless, this species seems to be well-known to the bird-catchers in S. Africa, by whom it is called the "*Zanzibar Fret*," to distinguish it from the Bronze Mannikin, or "*Fret*," and it will probably be more frequently seen in future.

There were one or two Violet-eared and Dufresne's Waxbills in this consignment, only one Grey-necked Serin, which latter species seems to be more and more rarely imported. It is protected in Cape Colony by the Wild Bird's Protection Act of 1899.

Mr. Hamlyn had also the best consignment of Parrot-finches I have ever seen—over a dozen and quite perfect—as well as three beautiful pairs of Cuban Finches.

W.E.T.

* * *

Our members, Messrs. Suggitt and Sutcliffe, have been enterprising enough to import some South American species with considerable success as will be gathered from the following extracts from a most interesting private letter.

" The ship arrived off Falmouth September 19th, and was ordered to Bremen. The " mate wired '45 Seedeaters and others alive,' and, after being fog-bound for some days " reached Grimsby on the morning of the 15th inst. It is a joint importation of our " member, Mr. A. Sutcliffe and myself......Those he landed were two Olive-backed " Thrushes, probably both females; one Blue Tanager and one Violet; fifteen *Spermophila* " *lineata*, males, moulting but almost in adult plumage; sixteen other *lineata*, which I " took for females, they are olive-brown with buff tips to the greater and median coverts. " One of each died and I promptly despatched them to Mr. Page, who took them " over to the Museum and decided they were both males—the brown buff-tipped ones in " immature plumage. This was disappointing. There are, however, about four hens " amongst them I think. The other fifteen are a mixed lot. Five of them almost tally " with the description of *S. analis*, male; four are I think females of this species.

W.E.T

Post Mortem Reports.

(*Vide Rules*).

For replies by post, a fee of 2/6 *must be sent;* this regulation will not be broken under any conditions.

Young GOULDIAN FINCH. (Miss M. Gibbons). Cause of death, yellow atrophy of liver.

CINNAMON FINCH. (W. E. Teschemaker). Cause of death, double pneumonia. The abdominal viscera was greenish so could not make out if anything was abnormal with this part of the internal organs. The breast bone was sharp, suggesting illness of at least several days.

Cock SUPERB TANAGER. (T. Turner). Cause of death, enteritis, enlarged liver and hæmorrhage on the brain.

DOUBLE-BANDED FINCH. (Hayward M. Mathias). Cause of death, pneumonia. The breast-bone was sharp.

MADAGASCAR LOVEBIRD. (J. T. Smith). The lungs were congested suggesting that death was caused by exposure. The bird was otherwise in a very good condition. I have sent the remains to a taxidermist with orders to write you at once.

Cock PINTAIL NONPAREIL. (Captain Perreau). The growth on the head was a yellowish circumscribed cheesy body, the size of a hemp seed, which was loosely attached under the skin and causing the absorption of the corresponding portion in the cranial bone. A little behind it was a pit like depression of the same bone. There was also double pneumonia, which in my opinion was the cause of death. The body was plump and otherwise normal.

HENRY GRAY, M.R.C.V.S.

(Continued in Inset).

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BIRD NOTES:

— THE —

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

Two Indian Babblers.

THE RUSTY-CHEEKED SCIMITAR BABBLER (*Pomatorhinus eryhrogenys*).
THE SLATEY-HEADED SCIMITAR BABBLER (*Pomatorhinus schisticeps*).

By O. MILLSUM.

Our worthy Editor seeing these two new additions to my collection very kindly suggested having them sketched for our Magazine, and in common with his usual promptitude, Mr. Goodchild was down sketching them within a week. The sketching done, I am requested to write a few notes concerning them, a somewhat difficult problem, as not only the birds but their habits are entirely new to me. A few words first as to how they came into my possession will not be out of place here. Some few weeks ago, I had a letter from the Continent saying that a rare bird, East Indian, was being sent to me, as it would no doubt please me (a very easy matter if at all rare or uncommon). Upon his arrival "Rusty," as I have since dubbed him, was a great surprise to me, and being pleased I was tempted to send for "another two rare Babblers" offered me, and great was my pleasure to find not just TWO, but a true pair of the Slatey-headed. Amongst the many foreign birds that have passed through my hands, and their number is far too great for me to think of now, none have been more interesting than these taking and curious birds from East India. Although so vastly dissimilar in appearance, and the contrast is strikingly great, their mannerisms quickly betoken them to belong to the same family.

* * *

THE RUSTY-CHEEKED SCIMITAR BABBLER.

As aforesaid, "Rusty" was the first to come into my possession, and the first thing that strikes those who see him is the curious long curved beak apparently out of all proportion to the bird. I knew that the bird was an insectivorous one and accordingly placed soft food, same as I give to all my Tanagers, &c., in his cage and offered him a mealworm. Without the slightest hesitation, or the faintest sign of fear, he quickly sidled along the perch, took it from my hands and very soon disposed of it. Looking at him again the thought struck me that this long beak, which a friend of mine likened to a piece of macaroni, may be used for either digging in the ground, or else to obtain the nectar and pollen from flowers, and thereupon obtaining a deep, yet small glass, poured into it some milk sop, mixed in the same way that all my Lories have, and was amply rewarded by seeing him hop down and placing his bill into the sop, suck it down with great gusto, evidently greatly appreciating this addition to his fare. Since then he has had some every day, very quickly, making short work of it, and I am certain it is a good addition to his daily fare. Apart from the abnormal length of his bill, "Rusty" is a taking bird. Chaste, though his predominating colours are brown, the various shades are nicely blended, his breast markings remind one of the breeding plumage of our English cock Linnets. Song I should say he has none, at any rate he has not favoured me with any, but he possesses a most peculiar shrill call note, shrill but not objectionable by any means. Very active in his movements he would require a very large cage, at present he is flying loose in a room with a number of other specimens. I should imagine that he would be an ideal aviary bird for he can easily hop, not fly from the ground to a high branch, or *vice versa*, and bound straight away to another branch three or four feet away. He also loves to run along the ground and at times will sit in a corner as still as he can be, looking like an ancient philosopher wrestling with some deep problem of nature. He would make an ideal pet for anyone who could afford the time to speak and play with him, for he shows great intelligence and is extremely pleased when one takes notice of him. I have too many birds for individual petting, or else "Rusty" would be my chum, and should I part with him I shall certainly miss him.

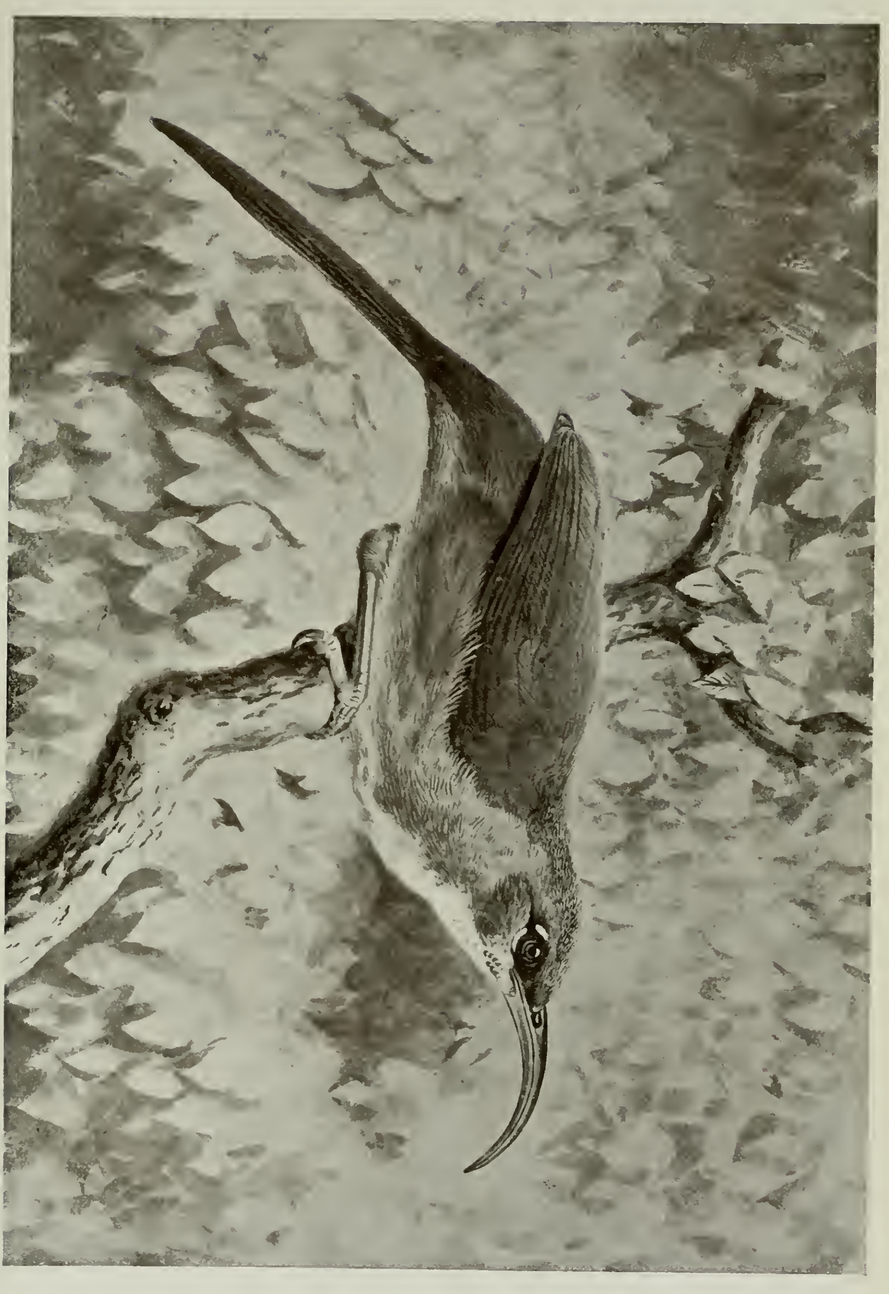
[This fine species is not clad in gorgeous apparel, nevertheless his sober plumage is very pleasing in its quiet and chaste harmony, and with its long, slender curved bill is both striking and handsome. Its total length is 11 inches of which the bill measures 1½ and the tail 4 inches. According to Jerdon and Oates it ranges over the whole extent of the Himalayas from 2,000 to 10,000 and even 12,000 feet ; Khasi Hills, Bhamo, the pine forests of Salween Valley, Thatone, Tennasserin. From the same authorities we learn that it is always found in pairs, turning up the dead leaves on copeswood-covered banks ; it breeds in April and constructs a domed nest on the ground, which is so cunningly blended with the surrounding matter as to be very difficult to find. Its mode of progress on the ground consists of very rapid and prodigious hops. It feeds almost entirely on insects.

Description : Upper surface olive brown ; forehead, ear-coverts, sides of the thighs and tail coverts rusty-chestnut ; lores greyish white ; moustachial stripe dusky-black ; undersurface greyish-white, lightly washed on the breast with rusty-chestnut ; bill bright horn colour ; legs and feet brownish flesh colour.—Ed.]

* * *

THE SLATEY-HEADED SCIMITAR BABBLER.

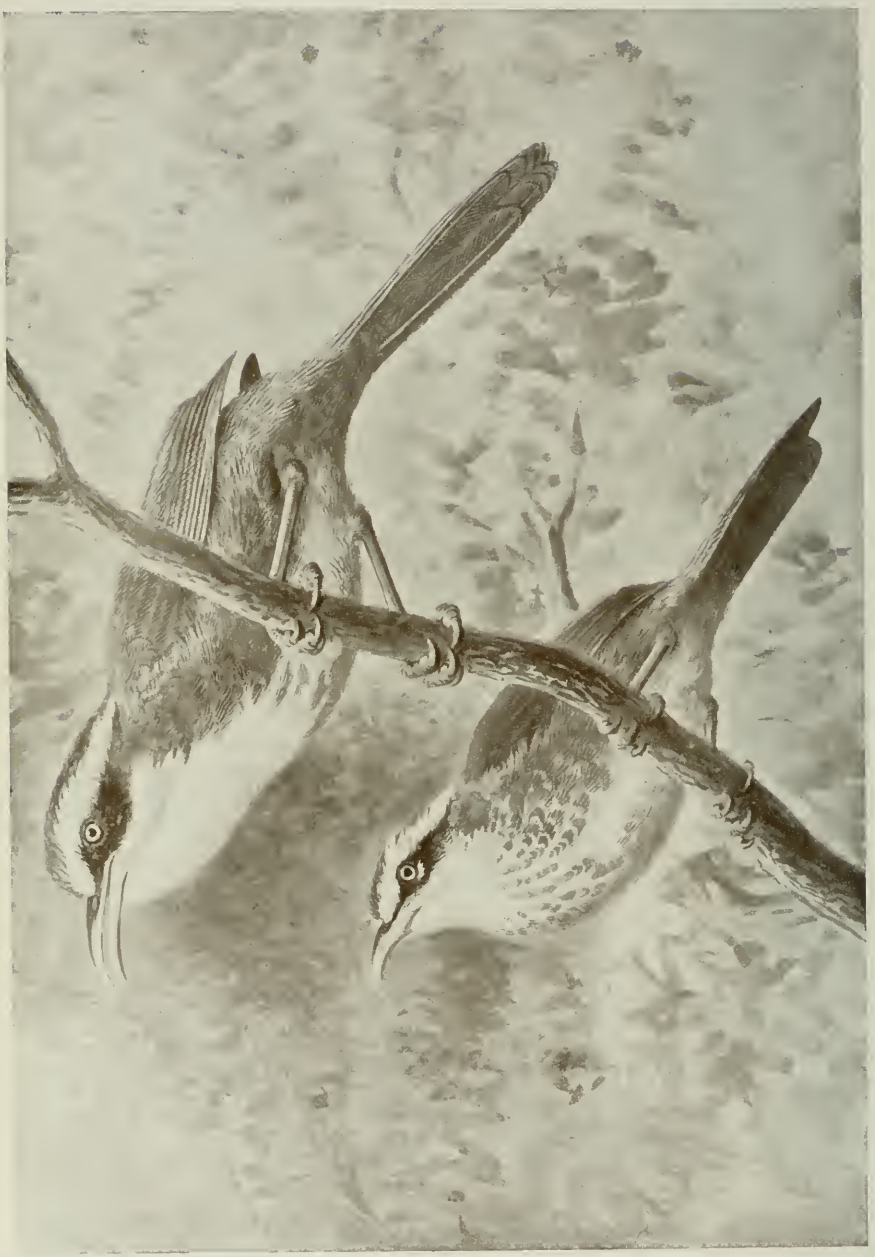
I am fortunate in possessing a true pair. They do not possess the long curved beak of "Rusty," but their head markings greatly resemble those of a Bunting. In the quickness of their movements, the sharp dart, the brightness of their eye and perky call, they greatly resemble the Pekin Robin, only they are a little larger. "Rusty" can move, but the "Slatey-headed" are, to use a vulgar expression, like "greased lightning." Very



Drawn from life by H. Goodchild.

THE RUSTY-CHEEKED SCIMITAR BABBLER.

Pomatorhinus erythrogenys.



Drawn from life by H. Goodchild.

THE SLATY-HEADED SCIMITAR BABBLER.

Pomatorhinus schisticeps.

restless birds, they are constantly on the hop. In the centre of the room where they are flying is a fairly large tree, and the distance from the branches to the window is roughly speaking about four foot. The window is covered with half-inch wire netting. The Babblers jump, not fly, from tree to window, back again and from floor to highest branch without any apparent exertion, and yet withal when placed in a small show cage they are quite steady and like "Rusty," quite fearless. They are very curious and although on the hop constantly, very little escapes their notice. To prove this one has only to throw some mealworms upon the floor, down swoop the Babblers close to your feet, and the mealworm is soon disposed of. The three Babblers are very chummy and roost near one another. All are in splendid condition, and have never ailed anything while in my possession. The Slatey-headed are treated just the same as "Rusty" and all my soft bills, and their health proves they are faring rightly. On the floor of the room I have placed a box of soil, and in their perambulations along the floor, hopping in preference to flying, and digging the soil with their beaks, one comes to the conclusions that they are ground birds. I cannot say if I am correct.

I should be glad if our esteemed editor will quote a detailed description of their plumage.

I should like to say that the sketches accompanying this article should be faithful likenesses of both species, at least the sketches Mr. Goodchild made in my birdroom are faithful in every detail.

According to Oates this fine species is found throughout the Himalayas from Simla to Sadiya, and the hill-tracts of Eastern Bengal, Tipperah, Cacach, and Manipur to Arrakan. Its habits are similar to those of *erythrogenys*. They are usually found in pairs. The nest is placed on the ground and similarly hidden, the eggs are white, usually four in number, the breeding season is from April to June; their natural food consists almost entirely of insects.

It differs materially from *erythrogenys*, it is of smaller size, the bill is shorter and not so curved.

Description: Upper surface dark olive-brown; forehead, crown and nape, slatey; lores, eye region, and ear coverts black; a white band stretches from the nostrils to the nape above the eye; chin, cheeks, throat, breast and abdomen white; sides of neck and breast and abdomen ruddy-chestnut; under tail coverts dusky-brown; bill yellowish-horn colour; legs and feet dark brownish flesh colour.

At the end of October I had the opportunity of observing these birds in Mr. Millsum's bird-room and their bounding hops both on and from the ground and from branch to branch are truly prodigious. They are, *i.e.* both species, full of character, appear to be fairly amiable and are certainly an ornament to any series of birds of similar capacity. Though fairly well known they are very uncommon, almost rare, on the English market.—Ed.]

Aviary Birds I have met in their Natural State.

By DOUGLAS DEWAR, F.Z.S., I.C.S.

(*Continued from page* 192).

V. THICK-BILLED BIRDS.

Although no fewer than sixty-four species of Finch are recorded as being found in India, these birds cannot be said to be a conspicuous feature of the avifauna. The great majority of them are confined to the higher ranges of the Himalayas. Those that descend to the plains can be numbered on the fingers.

The Common Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) is the only species which obtrudes himself upon the notice of the Anglo-Indian. The Indian Sparrow differs slightly from his brethren in England. On this account Jerdon gave him specific rank, calling him *Passer indicus*. "It chiefly differs," wrote Jerdon, "from *P. domesticus* in the greater purity of its colours and in the female being somewhat paler. It is somewhat smaller too than its European congener, the black of the breast of the male is more extended laterally, and the cheeks and sides of the neck are purer white, as are the lower parts generally." The Indian variety has much the same habits as the English one. It is, however, necessary to add fifty per cent. to the impudence of the latter to arrive at a proper estimate of the character of our Indian Sparrow. Moreover, we in the Land of Regrets have his impudence made more apparent to us, since we live so much with open doors and windows. On one occasion I was literally evicted from a hotel in Madras by the Sparrows! But, stay—I am writing of aviary birds, so have no business to speak of the Sparrow, for I believe that I am almost the only person living that has kept Sparrows in a cage. Most aviculturists think that they see quite enough of *Passer domesticus* in real life without going out of their way to see more of him. Let us, therefore, pass on to those species which have more right to the title "aviary birds."

But here again I am confronted by a difficulty. Is the Yellow-throated Sparrow (*Gymnorhis flavicollis*) ever kept in aviaries? This is a kind of an aristocratic Sparrow. Its beak is less gross, its figure is less vulgar, and both sexes are set off by a pale yellow spot on the throat, conspicuous in the cock and less so in the hen. The note of this species, while not unlike that of the common Sparrow is less unmusical. Jerdon states that it nests in the hollow bamboos of the roofs of houses in some parts of India, but all the nests that I have found have been in cavities of trees, usually at no great height from the ground. The eggs are not unlike those of *Passer domesticus* in colouration. This species undergoes local migration in India. It is merely a hot weather visitor to the Punjab, migrating southwards in the autumn.

The only Indian species of the true finch having a really pleasant song is the Common Rose Finch (*Carpodacus erythrinus*). The vocal performances of these species are thus described by Blyth : "A feeble twittering song, but soft and pleasing, being intermediate to that of the Goldfinch, and that of the small Redpoll Linnet; the call note much resembling that of a canary bird."

This species does not stay in India to breed. It is merely a winter visitor to Hindustan.

The hen is an inconspicuous greenish-brown bird, but the cock is, when in full breeding plumage, quite a dandy, his crown, throat, breast and rump being brilliant crimson. It usually goes about in little companies, and these gather into larger flocks preparatory to the migratory flight.

The only other members of the finch tribe commonly seen in the plains are the Buntings. These are, like the Rose Finch, winter visitors to India. They stay in that country until the spring crops have been harvested and then go northwards to breed. They congregate in considerable numbers at places where the cereal crops are ripening, and hence are known as Yellow Corn Bunting. The species most commonly seen are the Black-headed Bunting (*Emberiza melanocephala*) and the Red-headed Bunting (*E. luteola*). Numbers of these are netted by the bird-catchers and sold as cage birds. But they do not appear to be very interesting pets. I once kept a couple in a cage with some Amadavats, or Red Wax-bills as they are commonly called in England. These latter, although not much more than half the size of the Buntings, treated them very badly. The Buntings were made to roost on the floor of the cage, which I take to be the greatest degradation, short of plucking out feathers, or biting off legs, which one bird can inflict on another.

(*To be continued*).

Notes on my Aviary and Birds.

By Hayward W. Mathias.

For an aviculturist (*sic*) of barely four months standing to write his experiences, to my mind, savours of impertinence. Still, Mr. Editor, you have asked me to have my say—and, as in duty bound, I will do so.

Perhaps in starting I may be allowed to mention that some eight years ago, when badly bitten with "bird fever," I laid out a certain number of golden sovereigns, and in return had, and for a very limited period too, a varied collection (hailing from Europe, Asia, Africa and America) besides several "Britishers," which I put into disused Pigeon aviaries, and practically made over to my gardener to look after (I was then away from home in London daily). He knew no more about birds than I did, and, as a result, which I ought to have anticipated, my varied collection died off with great unanimity of feeling, and I was left birdless and a sadder and wiser man.

Very naturally after this experience I made up my mind to leave aviculture severely alone, and was constant in this determination until I retired from the Civil Service, and finding myself a free man and a corner in my new garden looking "just the very thing" for small birds, I determined to make a fresh start, and did so by purchasing various pairs of Australian Finches, some Diamond Doves, and, of course, Budgerigars, which I have always been told "pay the corn bill * for the others."

My experience however, as I shall now proceed to show has, very fortunately, been that the Finches have bred more freely than the Budgerigars, and rightly or wrongly, I attribute the very satisfactory nests I have had to the sea breezes, and wonderfully dry bracing air of this place (Stubbington, Hants).

To start with, I suppose I should describe my aviary, which is a wooden structure facing more west than south. The back is made of 1-inch boarding, about 10 feet long. The width of the sleeping quarters is 4½ feet; the height at the front is 7 feet, sloping to 6 feet at the back. The roof is boarded and covered with roofing felt. The sleeping quarters are divided into two sections: one about 6 feet wide for the Finches, and the remaining space (4 feet) for the Budgerigars. The Finches quarters are boarded down two feet. Under the boarding two windows (each 2 feet wide by 4 feet long) are fitted; these open into the flight. The remainder of the front is boarded. A wire gate, which will shortly be exchanged for a wooden door, leads into the sleeping quarters. The Budgerigars sleeping and nesting quarters are quite open, but I have fitted a piece of corrugated iron in front of the opening so as to keep out the driving rain. The flight for the Finches and Budgerigars is 8 feet long, and the same width as their respective sleeping quarters. Each division has its own grass patch, and the remainder of the space and the inside of the sleeping quarters have sea gravel to a depth of quite six inches.

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* I am afraid so many are now wanting to pay their "corn bills" that the expected result is not always realised; the supply of Budgerigars at present almost exceeds the demand and profitable disposal is not always easy.—Ed.

The interior fittings for the Finches consist of a perching rail running along the back and one side. The back is lined with large fir branches and pea sticks; in these I have fixed various small nest baskets, also, where suitable along the back and sides, I have placed ordinary small travelling boxes and some cocoa-nut husks.

For the Budgerigars I have provided two husks for each pair. For nesting materials I use the ordinary mixtures of hair, moss, &c., one buys at a penny a time, and I constantly put on the bottom of the aviary long pieces of dried grass, which the Finches employ more than anything else for their nests. They also particularly appreciate the combings from our Persian cat, which are carried off and used for linings to the nests.

And now for the inmates of the aviaries. In the Finches aviary I started in the third week of June with a pair each of

Rufous-tailed Grassfinches (*Bathilda ruficauda*).
Black-headed Gouldian Finches (*Poephila gouldii*).
Bicheno Finches (*Stictoptera bichenovii*).
Long-tailed Grassfinches (*Poephila acuticauda*).
Zebra Finches (*Tæniopygia castanotis*).
Crimson Finches (*Neochmia phaeton*).
Hartz-Mountain Canaries.
Diamond Doves (*Geopelia cuneata*).

In the Budgerigar aviary I put three pairs of Green, and one pair of Yellow, Budgerigars. I will now give breeding results from the respective pairs in the order named.

The Rufous Tails were the first to nest. They took possession of a basket work nest, sat very steadily on six eggs and brought off six young birds. I make a point of opening the windows of the sleeping quarters before entering them (the windows open from the outside) and it was well I did so, for to my astonishment one day, the whole six flew clean out of the nest to the far end of the aviary; had the windows been closed I imagine the result would have been disastrous.

The Black-headed Gouldians made no attempt to nest, and the hen died about a fortnight ago. *Post mortem* revealed liver disease. The cock bird is fairly happy for a Gouldian and, as a widower, does not seem to mourn the late departed overmuch.

The Bichenos made a very charming little nest and laid eggs, but soon deserted them. I am sorry to say that both are dead. One escaped unnoticed into the Budgerigars aviary, and I found it on the ground quite dead; the survivor died three days later and the body is now with Mr. Gray for *post mortem*. These are very charming little pets and I shall certainly replace them.

The Long-tailed Grassfinches began to nest soon after the Rufous Tails. They also laid six eggs and brought off six youngsters, all of which left the nest in exactly the same fashion as the Rufous Tails. This brood always returned to the nest to sleep and, when the nest collapsed, the old birds built a fresh nest on top of the old one, in which the youngsters sheltered until the hen laid again (which she did when the first brood was about three weeks old); the old birds then sent the youngsters about their business. This second nest is a huge affair, and the old birds used nearly an armful of dried grass in its construction. It will be of interest perhaps to mention as an instance of extraordinary intelligence in this pair, that as they evidently resented a peep I had into the opening of their first nest, they closed the opening up and made another in the thick of the fir branches where it was impossible for me to look in. They have, however, apparently full confidence in me now, and their second nest opens outwards. I saw a nice little lot of upturned beaks a week ago, and I notice to-day (the 27th) the birds are almost fully fledged. I am wondering if it is too much to hope for another six!

The Zebras have been a disappointing pair; have made several nests and then pulled them to pieces. They have now partly lined a cocoa-nut husk, and I had a peep yesterday and saw some eggs. I fancy, perhaps, that the restlessness on the part of the Zebras is owing to a continuous feud with the Crimson Finches, and I shall have something curious to say as to this a little later.

The Canaries were disappointing. Two nests and only one young bird.

The Crimson Finches come last, but for general interest and for attractive appearance I have found them far and away the best worth watching of all my birds. They are never still, but are perpetually waging war with their fellow captives, and when mealworm time comes round they manage, by sheer impudence, not only to have first go, but also to rob the others of the "crumbs they have picked up from the rich man's table." Unlike the other Finches, their method of devouring these dainties is to take them to the branch of an old apple tree in the flight, and keep the right claw on the mealworms while they eat them up. Now for their nesting operations.

They took possession of a Canary breeding box which was fixed high up under the roof at the back of the house. The outside of the nest was made of moss and the inside of dried grass and what feathers they could pick up. In due course the hen took to the nest and apparently never came off during the period of incubation (at any rate I never saw her), but the cock bird fed her on the nest, and as far as I could see, principally with mealworms. I noticed one morning both birds were off, and from the exceedingly satisfactory noises that proceeded from the nest when the hen bird returned to it, I was satisfied that at any rate I had bred *Neochmia phaeton*. All went well, and the clerk of the weather remaining in his most obliging mood, with day after day of absolute summer, I was one morning rejoiced by the sight of two small brown birds about the size of Long-tailed Grassfinches; the day after, another two made their appearance. These young birds—unlike the Long-tails and Rufous-tails, which were as wild

Hawks for days after they left the nest—were quite tame and allowed me to handle them. They were of a modest brown colour, beaks black, and just a shade of crimson visible in their tails and primary wing feathers; but what struck me more than anything else was that on the very day they emerged from the nest they showed that "twitch" of the tail which is so conspicuous in this species. The birds came out on the 18th and 19th of October, and the weather beginning to turn cold, and the little mites looking very humped up, I caught the four and their parents, put them into a "Crystal Palace" cage, lighted up my greenhouse boiler, and ran the temperature up to 65° and kept it as near that as possible for three or four days.

I have spent some time with them to-day (Oct. 27th) and find the young birds are beginning to feed themselves. I therefore hope my anxieties are at an end and that I may congratulate myself on having reared four *Neochmia phaeton*. The number of eggs laid was four, so I am again fortunate in getting a bird from each egg. I have now, on the kindly advice of our Editor, caged the young and old birds separately.

The Diamond Doves have not bred. There were evidently more hens than cocks, and I am unable even to say what number of eggs each bird laid. Late in the season I exchanged a hen for a cock with one of our members—but, after the early part of August the hens ceased to lay. They are pretty, gentle little birds, and, not even the Crimson Finch cock (the champion bully of the establishment) has an unkind word to say to them!

The Budgerigars have bred freely, but I don't seem quite to have hit off the best way of treating them. My yellows died, one pair of greens have not bred, but the other two pairs have produced a round dozen of youngsters and there is a husk containing three young birds who have still to face the world, and a precious cold world they will find it too, if this weather continues.

A little earlier, in these notes, I mentioned the feud between the Crimson and Zebra Finch cocks. It seems hardly credible, and yet it is undoubtedly true, that the cock Zebra which had been on quite friendly terms with the young Long-tails and Rufous-tails, deliberately "went for" one of the young Crimson

Finches the day it emerged from the nest and shook it savagely. The old birds heard the cry and came in from the outer flight where they were "meal-worming," and that Zebra cock wished he had not!

I suppose my feeding is the same as other aviculturists'. But still, Sir, as you ask for my experiences, I think I had better continue.

My mode of procedure is as follows. I first go to the young bird aviary (I have drafted all the young Finches and Budgerigars into separate quarters) empty their seed vessels (canary and white millet) into a sieve and replace their spray of ear millet by a fresh one, and give them their quota of mealworms and fresh water. Then I carry on the same operations with the Rufous-tails and in the Finch aviary, and after sifting the grain, I give it to the Budgerigars together with some hemp seed, and do not forget to replenish their supply of white oats and millet heads.

I feed all the birds on the ground, and supply green food *ad. lib.*, but the Crimson Finches seem to care for nothing but grass seed and this is none too plentiful in the late Autumn. I take care to keep all seed vessels and baths scrupulously clean, and wash them all out myself at least twice weekly, and, when necessary, place them in the hands of the cook for a thorough scald. I keep sea sand on the floor of the young birds' aviary, and sea gravel on the floors and flights for the older birds. I fancy this sand and gravel must be good for the birds for they pick up a lot of it, and they are certainly in fine feather and condition.

I must not forget my friend "Bobs"—a Robin—who follows me in my rounds, and is so tame he will sit on the edge of the jam jar in which I convey the mealworms to his brethren in captivity; evidently hoping that he also will get his "*tit bit*"—in which I need hardly say he is never disappointed!

My Blue Bonnet Parrakeet—which I keep caged and move into the verandah daily—is a handsome bird and very fairly tame. I highly value him as he was a bird from the collection of my old friend Mr. O. E. Cresswell, and was given me on Mr. Cresswell's death by his sister.

I can hardly hope, Mr. Editor, that these notes can be of any value, but at any rate they will serve to show what a deep interest even a small collection of birds may afford, and should they prove the means of adding but one more to the membership of your valuable Society I shall be more than repaid for the time spent in jotting down my experiences.

Mrs. Anningson's Collection of Parrots, Cockatoos, etc.

By W. T. Page, F.Z.S.

By the kindness of Mrs. and Dr. Anningson I was privileged on October 28th to view the above, and to spend a most pleasant half-day at their Cambridge home. First of all I must congratulate Mrs. Anningson on the fine condition of her large pets, for though many where still in the moult, they are all tight and sleek, with not a feather eater among them, this alone speaks volumes for their hygienic housing and treatment.

The Parrot House: This is really a handsome building, roomy, well-lighted, scientifically ventilated and with an ample hot water service to keep at bay the inclemencies of our English winter. The door is at one end, with a lobby entrance, thus checking draught; the interior is tastefully decorated with a combination of pale greens; a range of windows runs right along the front of the house, these are all made to open, so that the building is cool and airy during summer's heat. A staging runs along each side and one end of the house, there is also another stage running down the centre of the house, with an ample gangway between each. It will be seen that with such accomodation combined with the personal supervision and care their owner bestows upon them, that the Parrots, etc., at "Walt-hamsal" enjoy an elysium that falls to the lot of few feathered aliens.

The Birds: It will be simplest to simply give a list of the birds in the first instance and then briefly pass them in review afterwards.

1 White-tailed Black Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus baudinii*).
1 Banksian Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus banksii*).
1 Bare-eyed Cockatoo (*Cacatua gymnopis*).
2 Great Salmon-crested Cockatoos (*Cacatua moluccensis*).
2 Gang Gang Cockatoo (*Callocephalon galeatum*).
1 pair Lesser Lemon-crested Cockatoo (*Cacatua sulphurea*).
2 pairs Leadbeater Cockatoo (*Cacatua leadbeateri*).
1 ♂ Great White-crested Cockatoo (*Cacatua alba*).
1 pair of Goffin's Cockatoo (*Cacatua goffini*).
1 ♂ Hyacinthine Macaw (*Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus*).
1 Blue Macaw (*Anodorhynchus glaucus*).
1 ♂ Red and Blue Macaw (*Ara macao*).

1 pair Blue and Yellow Macaw (*Ara ararauna*).
1 pair New Guinea Eclectus Parrot (*Eclectus pectoralis*).
1 Grand Eclectus Parrot (*Eclectus roratus*).
1 ♂ Jamaica Parrot (*Chrysotis collaria*).
1 pair White-fronted Parrot (*Chrysotis bahamensis*).
1 Jardine's Parrot (*Pœocephalus gulielmi*).
1 ♂ Le Vaillant's Amazon (*Chrysotis levaillanti*).
1 ♂ Blue-fronted Amazon (*Chrysotis æstiva*).
1 ♂ Festive Amazon (*Chrysotis festiva*).
1 ♂ Senegal Parrot (*Pœocephalus senegalus*).
1 pair Blue Mountain Lorikeets (*Trichoglossus novæ hollandiæ*).
1 pair Bengal Parrakeets (*Palæornis torquata*).
1 ♂ Burmah Parrakeet (*Palæornis fasciata*).
1 pair Alexandrine Parrakeet (*Palæornis eupatria*).
1 Peacock-winged Parrot.

White-tailed Black Cockatoo. This extremely rare and fine speices is almost unknown in this country as a living bird, and Mrs. Anningson's fine specimen is probably the only one in Europe. Though of somewhat sombre hue, it has a fine appearance and is a handsome and striking bird, and to my mind the pick of our member's exceedingly fine collection. The entire plumage is brownish-black, glossed more or less with green, and the whole of the feathers narrowly tipped with creamy-white, thus giving a beautiful spangled or scaled effect that must be seen to be appreciated; the ear-coverts and a broad band across the tail, creamy-white; bill leaden-grey; leg and feet greyish-yellow. Total length 23 inches, bill 2⅜ and tail 14 inches. This majestic bird ranges over Western Australia. The following notes are compiled from Gould's Birds of Australia. It frequents the large forests of *Eucalypti* and *Banksiæ* the seeds of which form its main diet, though it seeks food on the ground, viz.: fallen seeds, insects and larvæ, the latter are also extracted from the trunks and branches of the various trees, its formidable bill forming a ready weapon for their extraction. It breeds in the holes of the highest white gum trees, in the densest and most retired parts of the forest. The eggs are two in number, 1⅜ × ¾ inches in size, and pure white. The breeding season extends over the months of October, November and December. It is also known as Baudin's Cockatoo.

Banksian Cockatoo: Another fine species of truly regal appearance, in perfect condition, and when it condescends to expand its wing is a feast of living beauty. It is well known having been exhibited at our principal shows for several years, but much as its grand appearance has been commented upon, I have never before seen it in such condition, both for richness of colour and silkiness of plumage, as on the occasion of my visit of October 31st. The adult male has the whole of its plumage glistening greenish-black; a broad band of vermilion crosses the middle of the tail with the exception of the two central feathers; bill black; legs and feet brownish. Total length 24 inches, bill 1¾, tail 13½. The adult female is also wholly greenish-black, with each feather of the head, neck and wing-coverts spotted with pale buffish-yellow; the under surface is crossed by narrow bars of pale buffish-yellow, which become reddish yellow on the under tail coverts; a band of red and yellowish-red crosses the middle of tail, this band being broken up by numerous bars and freckles of black. The beautiful penciling and spotting of the plumage cannot be described in a few words, no word painting can do justice to, a sight of this superb bird with outstretched wings is a sight long to be remembered. It is a native of New South Wales and Victoria, and it is frequently seen in the proximity of Sydney and other large towns. According to Gould it feeds on the seeds of the *Banksiæ* and *Casuarinæ*, but it also eats many caterpillars, doing much damage as it digs out these dainties from the trunks and limbs of trees. It is of a shy and retiring nature, of heavy flight—nests in the hole or spout of lofty *Eucalypti*, no lining being used; the white eggs are usually two or three in number. It is also known as Bank's Cockatoo. Mrs. Anningson is to be congratulated on the possession of such rare specimens as the two foregoing species. Of *Banksii* the London Zoo now possess five specimens, which arrived this summer with a large series of Australian Birds and Mammals.

BARE-EYED COCKATOO: This well-known, but by no means common, species, was represented by a single specimen, in exquisite condition and very tame. The plumage is apparently white with the exception of the forehead and lores, but when the feathers are shaken loose, it is seen that the feathers of the head, neck, and abdomen are pale rosy at the base; the eye region is naked and the skin of a blue colour; bill, whitish-horn colour; legs and feet plumbeous. Total length 16 inches, bill 1¼, tail 5. It is a native of South Australia.

GREAT SALMON-CRESTED COCKATOO: This fine and uncommon species is represented by two grand specimens, one not yet mature, while both are in most excellent condition, the mature bird is simply grand, its tight and spotless plumage of pure white with a slight rosy tinge and its lovely powdery bloom being absolutely without a flaw; when the feathers of the crest are erected it is a beautiful bird indeed. Both specimens are good talkers and most entertaining pets. Hab.: Ceram and Amboyna.

GANG GANG COCKATOO: Another very uncommon species, which is represented by two specimens and, like the birds already noticed, is in excellent condition. The whole of the plumage is blackish slate-grey, with the exception of the forehead, crest and cheeks, which are rich scarlet, all the feathers with the exception of the wings and tail, are very narrowly margined with white, these margins being much less distinct on the under-surface; bill, light horn colour; legs and feet blackish. Total length 14 inches; tail 5; bill 1¼. The female can be readily recognised by her grey crest, grey bars on flight and tail feathers, sulphur-yellow and reddish scalings of the under surface and yellow bars of the under tail-coverts. It is a native of S. E. Australia and Tasmania.

LESSER LEMON-CRESTED COCKATOO: This species is too well known to call for any lengthy comment here. The pair under notice, though still showing a few pen feathers, were otherwise faultless and spotlessly clean, which is the case with the whole series, with the exception of one or two new arrivals. The plumage is white; crest sulphur yellow; the base of the feathers of the head, neck, quills and tail feathers are sulphur-yellow; the ear coverts are distinctly yellowish. Total length 13 inches; tail 4⅜; bill 1½. It is found in the Celebes, Buton and Togian Islands.

LEADBEATER COCKATOO: Two pairs represent this brightly clad species, the plumage of a delicate blush-pinkish-white hue when the bird is at rest becomes of quite a warm rosy hue when the plumage is held loose, while its crest of vermilion, yellow and rosy white, is beautiful indeed when erected. Its total length is 11 inches; tail 6¼; bill 1¼. It ranges over the whole of Southern Australia, and according to Gould in his "Birds of Australia," it prefers the wooded slopes of sides of the rivers of the interior. The female differs from the male in having a smaller but more brightly coloured crest, but the rosy or salmon tint of the plumage of her under surface is not intense as that of the male.

(*To be continued*).

Breeding Crimson Finches in a Cage.

(Neochmia phaeton).

By H. HETLEY, M.B.

Some of our members may possibly be interested in an account of our pair of Australian Fire-finches (*Neochmia phaeton*). They were purchased in April and put into a cage in the sitting-room, where they began trying to build a nest next day. After filling two boxes with hay they took no further interest. Being moved into a larger cage (5ft. × 2½ × 1½) in another room, the cock built a very compact flask-shaped nest of hay, imitation cowhair and feathers. The hen laid two eggs, one on the floor and one in the nest. They sat on this single one for about a fortnight but it was not fertile, and after a while they deserted it. Nothing daunted, the cock commenced re-lining the nest, and after some days we found them sitting again, this time very closely and about a fortnight later we heard young ones "cheeping." In three weeks time five young ones came down, and for two or three days the parents fed them very well, then the cock commenced chasing them furiously, so was removed, but the hen though occasionally feeding them also started attacking them in a very violent manner. The little ones being quite unable to feed themselves we put them into a large cage divided in two with a wired space, in the partition, with the bars just wide enough to admit of the parents feeding them through the wires. This they fortunately condescended to do and the birds are now fine healthy little creatures. All the family seem of a most quarrelsome disposition, chasing and fighting all day long, though they never seem to do each other any harm. The cock parent-bird is very cruel to his mate and at one time we thought he would kill her. They have started building again and have some eggs, but are not sitting properly.

The young ones were fed principally on insectivorous food, mealworms, ants' eggs, white and spray millet, with lettuce and flowering grass in addition. At six weeks old one baby cock tried to sing; they twitch and spread out their tails and chase a Violet-eared Waxbill and a Painted Finch that happen to be in their cage with all the vigour of their parents.

Our experience with a pair of Painted Finches (*Emblema picta*) is, unfortunately, similar to that of Mr. K. Murray, as stated in the October Magazine.* We lost the hen after laying some eggs and a *post mortem* revealed a precisely similar condition to his bird.

Ornithological Notes during a Midsummer Holiday in the Pennines.

By H. Goodchild, M.B.O.U.

This year, for the first time for twenty years or more, I had an opportunity of paying a visit, in the height of summer, to a village at the foot of that long range of hills, known to Geologists and Geographers as the Pennine Range. This range, which starts at the Scottish border and runs almost due south to the Midlands, varies in character in different parts, being spread out and broken into small hills, in the south, but being compact and pronounced in the part I visited. Here the range faces nearly south west and consists of steep slopes of the Carboniferous Limestone series of strata, cut into deep mountain valleys (called "Gills") and varied here and there with crags either of the Limestone itself, or of a hard intrusive rock known to Geologists as Whin Sill.

The cultivated land at the foot of this range is fertile and well wooded—typical English agricultural country—with here and there a small patch of primæval moorland left to show us what it was like before it was occupied by man. Between the cultivated part and the open mountain or moorland (correctly know as "fell" or unenclosed land) there stretches along the foot of the hills a series of extensive pastures, locally known as "fell pastures," which are less visited and less disturbed than the lower ground, and form a favourable resort for some species which would not remain in more frequented parts.

Throughout these various tracts, from the tops of the hills to the lowest parts of the valleys, I was practically at liberty to range, with only

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* Mr. Murray's bird is still living, it was my bird whose death was mentioned in the October issue.—Ed.

Photo by Dr. W. Goodchild.

THE RAVENS' HAUNT.

THE HAUNT OF THE DIPPER.

Photo by Dr. W. Goodchild.

such restrictions as were imposed by care for growing crops, for there is nothing in the way of game preserving carried on, in the sense in which it is understood in the Southern Counties, and very little game to disturb.

The weather had been very dry and fine for some weeks prior to my arrival, and on the day of my journey (June 13th), although it was raining all the way as we passed through the Midlands, and had been raining heavily on the hills between Yorkshire and Westmorland, I found, on getting down into the Eden Valley, that very little rain had fallen there, and the country was suffering rather from the lack of it.

On the drive from the Station I soon had evidence of Ornithological pleasures to come, for in passing a patch of heather covered moor, both Peewits and Curlews made themselves conspicuous, birds of each species flying round us and making their wild cries. Few sounds produced by birds delight me more than the peculiar sounds made by Curlews, as they are not only—to my ears at least—musical in themselves, but are associated with the idea of open country where one may roam for miles and miles and be alone with Nature.

On the morning of June 15th I commenced my studies in earnest. Armed with two binoculars—one an ordinary low power for close quarters, and the other a powerful prismatic. I made my way towards the fells, soon finding a Tree Pipit sitting high up in an Ash and singing his best. Time and again, on passing this place, I heard this bird, and nearly always found him sitting on the same bough or else flying out a little way and returning to it singing as he flew.

Passing through the gate which shut in the enclosed ground, I was greeted with the alarm notes of a pair of Redstarts, which evidently had a nest in a picturesque old stone wall. These birds I watched for some time, as at first the male would not let me get a clear view of him, but always kept behind a spray or branch of some hawthorn bushes growing just beyond the wall. I did not attempt to find the nest but passed on.

Before reaching the open moorland, a belt of Gorse or Whin was passed, and about this I found the Meadow Pipit flitting in this tract, as also on the grassy moors above, the commonest Passerine bird. Rather to my surprise I found Willow Wrens hunting for insects amongst these whins although the tract they were on was about 800 or 900 feet up, and there were no other bushes; and a Whitethroat also with a green caterpillar in its beak, churred from a whin spray, and hesitated to go in to its young. The tract of fell pastures was divided by a patch of moorland, which even in dry weather afforded some swampy places and a few pools; but leaving its exploration to another time, I entered those pastures which lay to the north of it, and seating myself against a stone wall, took stock of such birds as were to be seen. A Carrion Crow was succeeded by a Skylark singing, and I counted seven Peewits in sight at once. Carefully scanning the skyline of the mountain above me, I saw at a distance of a mile or more, what I took to be two Ravens soaring, but they were not in sight long enough for me to be confident of their identity. Further on I came in sight of some fine old Hawthorns which deserved the name of trees, and in one of them I counted a party of fourteen Rooks sitting, but what they were about I could not tell. They seemed to be holding a Friends' meeting, but the spirit did not move any one of them to speak, so I changed my course toward the far corner next the moorland. A Snipe flew over from the moorland towards the nearest beck but did not come near me. In the afternoon I visited the moorland. Here I espied a bird with its head tucked into its back feathers, which looked from the outset like a Snipe, and on this I cautiously advanced. A pair of Peewits were calling and crying over my head, and the noise they made caused the quarry to look up. I then saw it was a Snipe, but kept quite still while the bird looked round it. Seeing, however, only what looked like an old grey tree-stump with some gnarled branches near the top, standing alone on the moor, but which was in reality the author watching the bird with a binocular, the Snipe tucked its head in and dozed again. At this I advanced, with the Peewits still warning me off; for the second time the Snipe looked around with the same result as before. With care I got to well within a hundred yards of it before it flew up, and then to my delight, instead of flying right away, it rose and "drummed" round me for about ten minutes before it finally settled. Here I also saw Red Grouse, of which there are generally a few to be seen on this tract, and occasionally a good pack; from the feathers being found all over the moor one knew that it was a favourite resort with them.

The next day was spent in a visit to a neighbouring town, and on my way I saw a Corn Bunting and heard his curious song, also on my return heard, for the first time, the grating call of the Corn Crake. The latter bird did not seem to be anything like so common as I had known it in other years, and this seems to have been the experience of naturalists in other parts of the North. In June 1887, for instance, Corn Crakes abounded in this district, and in the evenings one heard their "scrape, scrape" constantly.

The morning of the next day broke dull and cold, with a high wind and driving rain, so being curious to see how it would affect the moorland birds I went up and took notes. Peewits were seen but were quiet; Rooks and Carrion Crows flew past and a Woodpigeon was seen at a distance, but the Grouse kept out of sight. I flushed one on my way back and also a Snipe, and for the third time heard the Corn Crake. The afternoon was taken up in a visit to the low country to the south west. The rain which had driven hard all the morning slackened as I left the hills behind me, but the dull lowering skies remained. No observations of any value were made, the depressing day seeming to cause the birds to keep out of sight.

The next day was dull but not cold, and the Grouse which had kept out of sight on the last day of my visit to the moorland were abroad and alert. I espied one at a distance of about a quarter of a mile, as I surveyed the moor from behind a wall, but my actions in only showing my head and shoulders seemed to have made the Grouse more than usually suspicious, and the one I saw stretched out his neck to see all he could, and as I walked straight towards him he settled the matter by disappearing altogether. It was not till I had reached the spot where he had disappeared that he showed himself again, and then I flushed him from a watercourse cut narrow and rather deep, that traversed the moor, and he flew away scolding. Knowing that all the Grouse within hearing would now be alarmed I turned my attention to the other birds, and studied the Pipits which soared and then sang as they descended. A Snipe, probably my friend of the Monday, came over from a slight hill and drummed round me and then settled. He let me approach to thirty-five paces distance before he flew away. A Raven passing over at a considerable height and a flock of fifty-eight Peewits flying at one level, concluded my morning's observations. The afternoon looked as if it were going to turn to thunder, but faired up instead. I bent my steps southwards towards a detached piece of moorland and passed a group of several Peewits standing on some knolls, with a Curlew perched on the top of a rise, quietly preening. Before getting over the wall which enclosed the moor I heard a Snipe drumming, and saw two on the wing at once, the birds often being close enough together, (apparently) for both to be in the "field" of the binocular at once. These birds continued flying and drumming a considerable time—half-an-hour or so.

On the Friday I again had occasion to wander into the low ground to the south, and before going far heard a cry from the tract where both Curlews and Peewits were common, which I knew did not proceed from a bird of either species. I soon saw the bird that made it—a Redshank—the first I had met with in this country. It perched on a wall and piped for several minutes until disturbed by my passing near it. Further on I saw some Blue Tits amongst Scotch Firs at the end of a plantation. I had already noticed the absence of Tits of all species, and I met with few others during my stay. A Whinchat showed itself in an Ash tree and soon after, while scanning the pastures, an adult Cuckoo flew into the field of the binocular and enabled me to keep it in sight for three hundred yards or more. At midnight I heard the Corn Crake again.

I spent the last day of the week in going up the highest hill in the neighbourhood (Cross Fell, 2,930 feet). On my way over the moor I saw a Redshank perched on the wall over which I had watched the Grouse. Peewits were seen and heard at the top of the first rise, on a shoulder about 1,500 feet altitude, and near by, Rooks. No other birds were seen as we went up the exposed slopes of the mountain and none while we traversed the plateau at the top, but on reaching a spring a little beyond the plateau I was not a little surprised to find a large party of Swifts—thirty or forty.

The day was bright and hot and they seemed to be enjoying themselves. On our way back I caught a glimpse of what I took to be a Falcon, probably a Merlin, but it was out of sight before I could get the binocular on to it, and did not show itself above the edge of the plateau again. In the evening I noted a party of twenty-one Peewits in a flock on an isolated piece of moor and about a dozen Pied Wagtails flying and settling on ground where one would rather expect to see Curlews or Grouse. They seemed to be choosing a place for roosting as this was at 9 p.m., but their restlessness might have been due to my prying into their doings. Thus ended my first week's observations.

(*To be continued*).

My Aviaries.

By H. WILLFORD.

My interest in aviculture was first aroused some seven or eight years ago, although no doubt had circumstances allowed it might have come earlier.

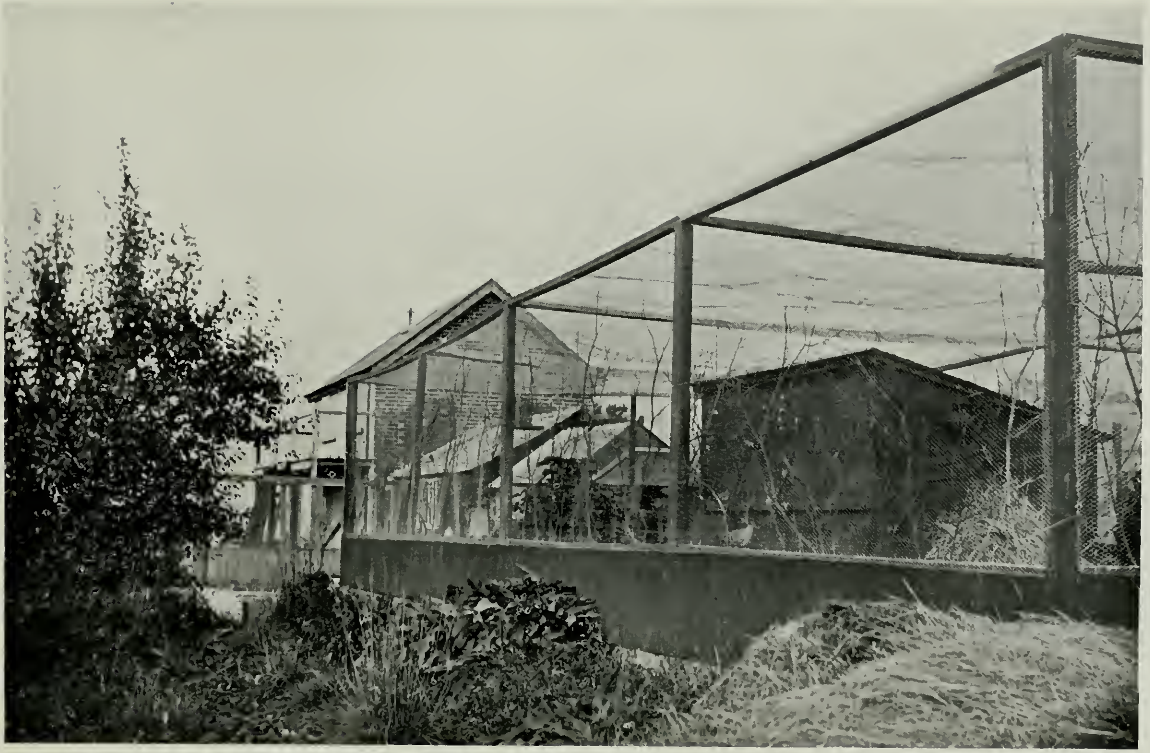
My first birds were a pair of Golden Pheasants, or about the first, to which for some years I added from time to time, until I think I had most of the better known species, viz., Impeyan, Sœmmerring's, Peacock, Siamese, Fireback, Swinhoe and Tragopan, also the commoner kinds, such as, Reeve's, Versicolor, Elliott, etc., but except with the latter I cannot say that I met with much success in breeding.

One day, however, some three years ago, I visited a friend's aviaries, and I was so struck with his birds, that from that day I have suffered from an acute form of *bird* fever.

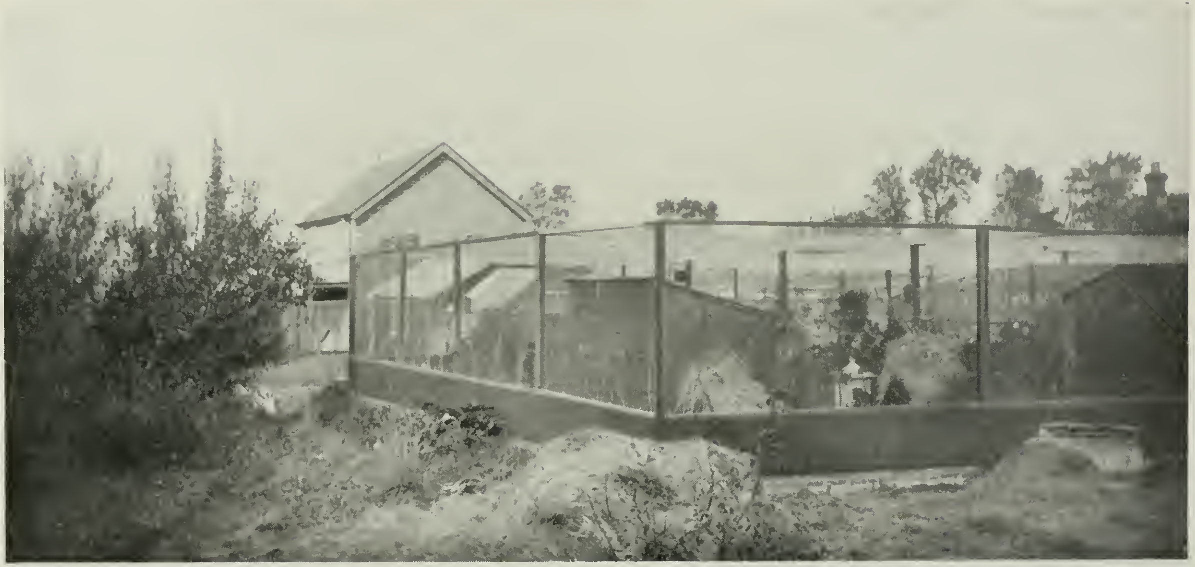
I gradually parted with my old friends, the pheasants, and started in a small way to keep Foreign Finches and Parrakeets. My first aviary consisted of a shed about 12 × 6 and flight 12 × 18 ft. In this aviary I kept a very mixed lot of birds, mostly finches, and here I succeeded in breeding Zebra Finches, Cutthroats, Diamond Doves (ten from one pair) and Red-billed Weavers.

This Spring, 1908 (the bird fever becoming more acute), I decided to build a sort of wilderness aviary, for finches, cardinals, etc. I first chose a nice sheltered piece of ground about 51 feet square, levelled and turfed, and planted it with shrubs, but owing to my late start, it was too late in the year for me to have any large trees moved, and so I had preforce to be content with those grown in large pots.

This fall, however, I have planted this aviary with well grown trees and shrubs, including the following, Portugal Laurels, Box, Bamboo, Variegated Pampas Grass, Spruce, Lupin Tree, Douglassi, Fir, Veronica, Cupressus, and Flowering Currant Bushes ; and also trees that my gardener calls "Marsh Mallow," but I do not know if this is the correct name, the



A GLIMPSE OF MR. WILLFORD'S AVIARIES.



MR. WILLFORD'S AVIARIES.

latter makes splendid shade for Gouldians, etc., and grows some 10 or 12ft. high.

This aviary is made in sections, 12ft. long 8ft. high of 3" × 2" red pine, boarded 2ft. from the ground, and rests on a concrete and brick foundation; the frame work is all mortised together, and the sections bolt together with $\frac{3}{8}$" iron bolts. The centre posts consist of six uprights 4" × 2", cemented in the ground about 2ft; these carry the cross beams which support the top wire netting, being fastened together by angle irons and screws. The whole of the top and sides are covered with $\frac{1}{2}$" mesh wire netting; in three of the sides I have a door. The houses, or shelters, consist of one shed, 12 × 6ft., standing inside this flight, well lighted and furnished with pea sticks and nest boxes.

There is another house, or shelter, the same size, but this is built on to the flight; there is also a rustic summer house. To the inside of the flight sections are nailed pea sticks, which prevent the inmates from flying wildly against the wire netting, or even fraying their tails, but they pitch on these natural perches instead, also when these sticks get covered with creepers, hops, etc., they make the aviary more secluded.

In the centre of the aviary is a fountain which is turned on for a short time daily, and there are a few birds that do not take advantage of it to get a shower bath.

One of the most useful things to put in for cover in a large aviary are bundles of straw; these I prop against the centre posts which carry the roof, and when covered with hops, etc., are quite picturesque in appearance, give good cover and are great inducements to the birds to breed.

Finches and small birds find plenty of holes in the straw, doves and pigeons readily build on the top and there is no risk of the eggs or young being pushed out of the nest.

In this aviary I have bred this year Peaceful Doves, Bronzewing Pigeons, Diamond Doves, Californian Quails, Rufous-tailed, Long-tailed and Masked Grass-finches, Bengalese, Silverbills, Cutthroats and Zebra Finches. I have also at present (Oct. 19th) Common Avadavats, Green Singing Finches, White Javas, Cordon Bleus, Crested Pigeons and Necklaced Doves; all with either eggs or young.

A pair of Ruddy-shouldered Cow-birds have built in my aviaries for two years in succession, but each time the eggs have been infertile. I can support Mr. Millsum in his statement that the hen alone incubates. This pair whenever I entered the aviary would come screeching around me and almost perch on my head, they seemed so tame; but after the nest and eggs were taken away a great deal of this tameness disappeared. (Vide plate of nest and eggs.)

Gouldians have not bred with me, though one pair built and eggs were laid.

Adjoining this "Wilderness Aviary" I have a large aviary 35 × 20ft. which is used at present for a pair of Spotted Emus (see plate) of which I hope to be able, after a longer acquaintance with them, to give an account later. This aviary I intend to divide into four for next year's breeding.

Adjoining are the Parrakeet aviaries, which consist of a shed 18 × 12ft., divided into six roosting shelters, each shelter having a flight of 30 × 6 × 6ft. high attached. In these I have, at present, Stanleys, Blue Mountain Lorikeets, Many colours, Twenty-eights, Blue Bonnets, Crimson Wings, Red and Mealy Rosellas, Redrumps, Cockatiels, Budgerigars and Canary-wing Parrakeets.

My bird room adjoins the Parrakeet aviaries and is over the stables; it consists of series of cages built round the walls, and two large flights. It is well lighted with two windows each side, glass panelled door and two skylights in the roof; it is fitted with a sink and has a cold water service laid on.

In these cages are some of the young bred this year and a few odd birds, Weavers, Whydahs, etc.

I am now erecting some Doves' aviaries at the back of the stables for my colony of birds is an ever increasing one, and the more I have, I am afraid, the more I want.

The breeding of the Peaceful Doves seems to be a rare occurrence so the fact of my birds having reared three young this year may be worth recording. The old birds nested on the front of an old rustic summer house; laid two eggs, which hatched in seventeen days, the fledgelings grew so rapidly that they were both out of the nest in thirteen days, and were soon able to fend for themselves. They were very much like young Diamond Doves when hatched, but soon became more blotched with greyish white. In the second attempt one egg got broken, but the other hatched and is now at large, and very strong and vigorous; this one I photographed, and is seen in the nest (which consists of a few pieces of hay) at five days' old.

The cock and hen would sit side by side of an evening, but I failed to observe whether both took part in the incubation.

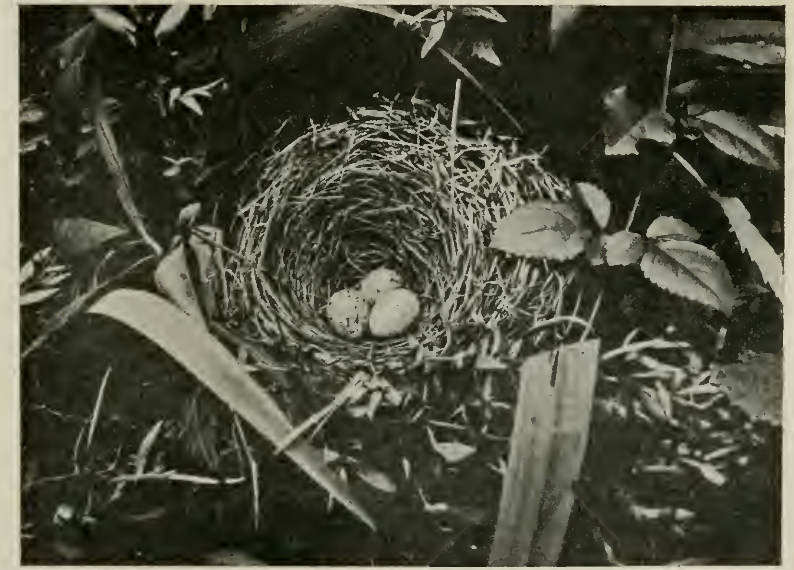
One more item may be of interest to prospective *Wilderness* builders, namely the cost which amounted to £25 for all the wood, wire netting and nails; the sections I made myself, so nothing is included for labour; the foundations, including mason's time, bricks and cement, cost £5; fountain and laying on water, £5; the rest of the work, such as leveling and planting ground was done by my gardener and no charge is included therefor; the only other help was about three days' for another of my men in having the wire netting of roof put together; and lastly the paint which cost about another £5. So I should think from £40 to £45 would cover everything bar the shelves, these had been in my possession for some time.

This wilderness aviary was built in three to four weeks, being completed in June, and if it yields as good as per centage of interest to me in years to come, as it has this year, it is at least a good investment if not an El Dorada.

The Nesting of Bulbuls in Captivity.

By A. SUTCLIFFE.

As our esteemed Editor has requested me to give a description of the nest and eggs of my Bulbuls I will endeavour to do so. To start from the commencement, I exchanged some West Indian birds with Mr. Frost for a pair of Bulbuls, which he called Philipine Bulbuls.* The cock bird is ashy-grey on the breast, with a black head and short crest, much darker colour on the back, and scaled like a Ring Ouzel, a long blackish tail, tipped with white and a yellow vent; the hen is very similar, but a trifle smaller, and not so distinct in her markings.



NEST & EGGS OF PHILIPPINE BULBUL.

When I first received the birds, they were in very poor condition, rough in plumage and without tails, so I placed them in a large flight cage in my bird room, where they soon recovered strength and grew tails. I then transferred them to the flight, turning them out into my garden aviary in April, where they seemed always to sit together, squabbling and chuckling all day long. On July the 31st I noticed the cock bird carrying some shreds of cocoanut fibre, which he had evidently pulled out of a cocoanut husk; on August 2nd I first noticed the nest, which was built in a Hartz-cage hanging over the entrance of the feeding shed (I was obliged to remove the nest from the cage, in order to get the photograph). On August the 5th the nest was nearly finished, it was cup-shaped, about 1½ inches deep, constructed of green grass and fine hay, and so frail that one could see through it. On August 9th the nest contained three eggs, of a pinkish brown colour, with rusty red blotches all over them, $\frac{10}{16}$ by $\frac{9}{16}$ths of an inch. The hen bird commenced to incubate on August 11th, sitting closely until Aug. 27th, when she left the nest and commenced to build again, but to my great disappointment she allowed the Gouldian and Green Singing Finches to pull her nest to pieces ; now the only thing I can hope for is better luck next year, for really this year I have had very hard luck, my expectations have been raised again and again only to be disappointed. A hen Nuthatch died egg bound, after building a nest of leaves in an old tree stump. My Bearded Tits nested and laid two clutches of eggs, one of five, which were soon forsaken, and another of three, which all hatched out, but they only fed them for three days, and then left them to perish. I am sure it was not for want of care, as I caught spiders and green fly, and also gave them maggots and mealworms by the million.

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* *Otocompsa leucotis.*

The Nightjar in Captivity.

I think that I am right in saying that no Englishman has been more successful than our member, Mr. Galloway, in the treatment of indigenous Softbills, indeed in the case of a Swallow, which Mr. Galloway kept in good health in a cage for no less than seven years, we probably have an unbeaten record. Knowing that our member had been almost equally successful with the Nightjar, I was anxious to include particulars of his system of treatment in the article that appeared in the November number on this subject, but unfortunately, Mr. Galloway's letter did not reach me in time. I am glad, however, to be able now to reproduce it by kind permission. W.E.T.

" It is true the Nightjar will feed itself in captivity, I am talking now of my own " specimen, but it will only feed in one way. It will never peck up from the floor of the cage " nor out of a tin, and if food was placed for it in that way it would starve to death.

" I have taught my Nightjar to feed itself in this way. I have a shelf made in the " front of the cage on the inside, level with the head of the bird when it is standing on the " floor of the cage. Along this shelf I have a row of pins with their heads broken off. " These pins are fixed along the edge of the shelf and sloping towards the inside of the " cage. Now, on these pins the soft food, made into little pellets the size of a bean, is " fixed, also mealworms, moths, flies, etc., and the Nightjar having the food placed level " with its eye takes it off the pins as it requires it.

" If the food is placed on the floor the bird appears not to see it, but place it on a " level with his eye and he snaps at it at once. The Nightjar has no idea of pecking up at " all—at least that is my experience.

" I have had my bird for over three years, having reared him from the age of four " days and he has never ailed. He is fed at 9 p.m. and has a small feed at 8 a.m. His night " meal consists of as much as he can eat and then the rest is taken away from him. He " has a little water occasionally but drinks very little indeed. He is the picture of health " and will fight my finger and play with my hand like a kitten.

" I take him out of his cage and let him sit on my hand and then throw him up in " the air in my kitchen, when he flies straight to the top of the door and sits and croaks " and rattles away like the wild bird and also gives the sharp call *go-ick*. He flies about

" and stretches his wings for an hour or so, then I take him on my hand open his cage door " and he jumps on the thick piece of oak-bough, which is fixed at the back of the cage, " and there sits lengthways.

"If the sun is out I take his cage into the garden and he then jumps down on the " floor and lies flat, just like a cat, basking in the sun. For a bath I let him sit on my hand ' and turn the water tap on over him, which he loves." P. F. M. GALLOWAY.

Among the Bush Birds.

By "L. B. J."

From the *Western Mail*, Perth, W. Australia, Dec. 25th, 1907.

"Now every day, and, with hardly a break, all day long, the yellow fields are given over to the harvester. Patient horses and impatient men toil and sweat beneath the " scorching summer sun. . . . During the great heat of day, nearly all the birds of the " bush take shelter in the shade afforded by the larger trees. The smaller feathered fry " seem to heed the sun's rays less than their bigger bodied brethren. The beautiful Blue " Bonnet darts from bough to bough, so rapid in his flight that he gleams like a sapphire " against the deep olive green of the tangled scrub. The Red-breast swings pendulous on " a spray, shooting little inquisitive glances first on the one side, then on the other. The " brilliant plumaged Bird of Paradise flashes a streak of living gold, between the white " stems of the York gums. The Kingfisher, scarcely less lovely in hue, haunts the shallow " pools of the winding creek. The diminutive Silver-Eye is busy from dawn to dusk in " garden and orchard, and the ubiquitous Wagtail chatters and scolds throughout the live-" long day. In the early morning, when the red forerunner of the dawn lingers on the lonely hills and all the east is golden with the flying shafts of the uprising sun: or in the evening, when one half of the earth lies steeped in swift gathering shadows, and the rose " rays shoot fan-wise from the fiery west, reaching nearly to the zenith of the fast-fading " sky, these are the best times for those who would be observant of the wild life which " prudently lies dormant until the sun has spent his power and departed to the under " world. Then the small, grey Kangaroo hops leisurely through the dense scrub. . . . " Green Parrots are everywhere, their plaintive notes sound from the orchards, for the " apricots are fast ripening. All along the harvest fields where the trees overshadow the " yellow stubble, they swing in the branches, or go swooping down on the grain squandered " by the ungainly stripper as it rattles from end to end of the broad paddocks. The " Rosella, a small variety of the parrot tribe, not much larger than a parrakeet, with " crimson breast and dorsal plumage of a duller green than that of the 'Twenty-eight,' " flits unwearingly from Sheoak to Sheoak; parrots seem especially fond of these trees with " their innumerable slender offshoots and thick, impenetrable shade, although, perhaps, " the Jam-tree has an almost equal place in their affections. Where there is water birds " will foregather morning and evening and at this time of the year, when the creeks are " dry save for an occasional pool, and many of the water-holes empty likewise until the " coming of the first rains, the fowls of the air flock from considerable distances to some " green spot, where they are certain of finding the means of slaking their thirst. . . . Now " is the season for the plump Bronze-wing Pigeon, its crop full of corn gleaned from the " kindly earth, or the scattered wattle seeds such as its heart loves. When young and inex-" perienced these birds are by no means difficult to approach, and will perch upon a bough " and eye the intruder with a confiding curiosity, quite heedless of the sinister shape of the " gleaming double-barrel; but the old birds are more wary, and seek safety in instant " flight. During the fierce heat of the day they may frequently be flushed in the neigh-" bourhood of rocks, especially on the slope of a hill. Dull brown, in fact, somewhat shabby " looking; seen in shadow, when the sunbeams strike aslant upon them, these pigeons, " particularly the cock-birds, reveal a remarkably handsome plumage; according to the

" reflex of light their wing feathers change from a glossy green hue to a rich bronze colour. " The breast and neck boast a soft shade of silver-grey, the under plumage of the wings is " a delicate salmon-pink. Here and there the prevailing brown becomes merged in a " neutral tint. The Blue or Rock Pigeon is a much smaller bird—grey, with markings of " black about the wings and head His bill is straight, not slightly curved as is usually the " case with the pigeon tribe. . . . The other morning I disturbed a covey of Quail, ten " birds in all, they were crouching in a patch of bush overgrown with wild oats, situated " not far from the farm paddocks, and doubtless the seeds had been dropped by birds as " they passed between the fields and a creek at the foot of the slope. The Quail will run " through long grass with incredible speed, and on the wing he is by means easy to shoot, " so swift is its flight. I have noticed but one kind of dove in these parts The beautiful " Bleeding-heart Dove is only to be found in more tropical regions; this bird has a single " speck of the brightest blood red hue on the plumage of his breast, hence the name. In " the neighbourhood of a river, especially where the soil is marshy, Swamp-hens—as some " call them—congregate by the hundred. Their deep blue plumage and red legs make a " brave show as they wheel in little clouds over the coarse reeds, or follow the windings of " the water with shrill outcry. Here the Grey Heron or Crane, with its long clumsy legs " and bayonet-like bill, may be seen apparently wrapped in contemplation, but in reality " very wide awake, standing sentinel upon a smooth-washed boulder in mid-stream. " Occasionally he darts swiftly downwards descending on some heedless frog or tadpole, " then returns to his former post of observation. . . . Some miles further back into the " stretch of country which lies between the valley of the Avon and that of the Helena, the " Emu, biggest of the bush birds, is still fairly plentiful; their tracks are to be seen near " any water soak, and once a friend of mine, who was driving into York, told me that one " ran for quite a considerable distance just in front of his buggy, much to the discomfort of " the horse, and it was some time before he could scare the interloper away with shouts and " murderous menaces. I came across an Eagle-hawk's nest a few days ago, built in an inaccessible fork at the very summit of a withered tree. These nests are remarkable for " their size, and are fashioned of twigs, many of them as large in circumference as a man's " little finger, like those of the Magpie and Pigeon they are roughly put together, presenting rather a ragged appearance. At this season, when by six or seven o'clock in the " morning the sun's rays are already unpleasantly powerful, the evening is perhaps the " best time to go abroad. Then only the higher hills and the topmost branches of the " forest trees catch the last warm gleams of light, and down in the hollow lands the night " is gathering about her a host of shadows. An hour when the curlew's weird crying " seems wonderfully in keeping with the eerie stillness of the lonely bush, and the Magpie's " note has a sweeter cadence than it had when the course of the burning day was yet unrun. Even the Crow seems less carpingly critical now that his nefarious errands are " accomplished for awhile at least."

(*To be continued*).

Correspondence.

A BARREN SEASON.

Sir,—In response to your request for notes on the doings of my birds, I may say that the season has been a very bad one with me, one of the worst I can remember, that is, so far as the breeding of foreign birds is concerned. I really cannot give any reason for this, for all the birds have been in splendid condition.

The Malabar Starlings which last year hatched four young, but did not fully rear them, have not even made a nest this year. My Crested Doves have been very idle, no nest built, but the hen has dropped a number of eggs from the perch, which of course were all broken. A pair of Grey Cardinals have had three nests, but have reared nothing.

The only birds which have done anything worth mention are a pair of Yellow Budgerigars, which have fully reared eleven very fine vigorous youngsters.

My only other success has been with a lovely pair of Diamond Doves, but here disappointments have been many, and only two young have been fully reared. Magpie Mannikins and Red-headed Finch have hatched out, but failed to rear their young.

White Java Sparrows and Talpacoti Doves with which I have been very successful in past seasons, have also done very badly; previously they have helped to pay the seed bill, but this year not a single youngster has been reared.

A Grey Java Sparrow ♂ and ♀ Saffron Finch, mated and built a nest in a small box, seven eggs were laid, but all proved clear. If they had only been fertile I think I should have been the possessor of some very funny looking hybrids.

I am afraid readers of "B. N." will consider this a rather dismal record, and that my birds do not receive proper attention at my hands, but this is not so; my aviaries are snug and comfortable, only the best food is purchased and they are carefully looked after in every respect. Very heavy blasting operations have been going on for some time in the granite quarries near here, and the consequent noise and concussions have, I think, something to do with my non-success. M. E. BAKER.

[The long continued hot and excessively dry weather does not appear to have been conducive to the successful breeding of foreign birds, save perhaps for Australian Finches. I have had more dried up clutches this season than in any previous year of my avicultural experience, and it has been the same in many aviaries.—ED.]

Notices of New Books, etc.

THROUGH SOUTHERN MEXICO. By Hans Gadow, with 160 illustrations and maps. London: Witherby & Co. Price 18/- net. This narrative of eight months wanderings, through the wild regions of Southern Mexico, is truly delightful reading. The definite scientific study of the wild life and their distribution, with special reference to prevailing environmental conditions, was the object of the expedition. In dealing with the wild life of this region, birds are not neglected and any readers will find interesting notes on Blue Birds, Humming Birds. Parrakeets, Macaws, etc. in the course of the Volume. It does not contain a dull page, and the story of the journey is told in a natural and interesting manner, which is not always the case with records of scientific expeditions. The following will indicate in a measure the varid contents of this interesting book of travel:—

The Valley of Mexico—The floating Gardens of Xochimilo—The Forest and its Fauna—The Mazatecka Tribe—Features of Tropical Forests—Adaptations to Arboreal Life—Swannahs and Swamps—Birds—The Lagoons—Humming Birds—The gigantic Caves of Cachuimilpa and their Fauna—The Musk Duck at Home—Bush Fowl—Parrakeets—Crocodiles and Birds of the Lagoon, etc.

TRAVEL AND EXPLORATION. We have received the prospectus of a new monthly magazine under the foregoing title; its scope will be comprehensive and include trade, colonisation, etc., while its prominent feature will be personal narratives of explorers in wild and little known regions. It is to be well illustrated by photographs, maps, etc., taken *en route*. It should form an excellent opportunity for bird lovers to gather many facts concerning the wild life of the occupants of their aviaries and cages. The first part is to be issued on Jan. 1st, 1909. London: Witherby & Co., 326, High Holborn, W.C. 1/- monthly.

The Month's Arrivals.

Two very interesting Indian Cuckoos have recently been received by Mr. Hamlyn, namely the Drongo Cuckoo (*Surniculus lugubris*), a species which is parasitic on the Drongo and curiously enough most closely resembles the latter in appearance, and the Koel (*Eudynamis honorata*) which actually succeeds in laying its eggs in the nest of that most cunning, vigilant and pugnacious bird—the Indian Crow. The Koel seems to take kindly to captivity for I have known it imported more than once. W. E. T.

Two consignments of Bearded Tits have lately reached the London market from Holland, a circumstance which I think is somewhat to be regretted for this species needs careful dieting and seldom does well in unskilled hands. I was even more sorry to see nearly a score of Long-tailed Tits. The latter were British, but a few specimens of the Continental type have also come through recently, which is now generally regarded as a distinct species, having an entirely white head besides being somewhat smaller and having a distinct geographical range. In appearance the Continental Long-tailed Tit is certainly one of the most remarkable little birds in Europe. W. E. T.

So many reports have from time to time been circulated amongst aviarists as to the prices of cage-birds at the chief South American ports, that I was recently much interested in receiving from a correspondent a statement of account showing the actual prices given for sixty-four birds purchased at Cartagena and Laguna de Terminos. One of the reports above alluded to was to the effect that Tanagers could be purchased at Rio de Janeiro for sixpence a piece. The total sum expended was £8 1s. 10½d., and was made up as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
35 Dominican Finches	3	2	6
18 Columbian Finches	2	1	8
3 Thrushes, 4 Buntings, 2 Tanagers	0	18	9
1 Hangnest	0	6	3
Expenses in Transit :			
Wood and nails for cages	0	4	8
Fruit, 7 weeks	0	11	9
Seed, ditto	0	16	3½
Total	£8	1	10½

W. E. T.

The other uncommon or notable species which have passed through the hands of our advertisers, viz , Thorpe, De Von, and Miss Rosey, some of which are still in hand, are as under: Archbishop and Chestnut-headed Tanagers, Green-billed and Sulphur-breasted Toucans; Diademed Amazon and Jardine's Parrots; Blyth's Starlings; Pine Grosbeaks; Virginian Cardinals; Golden Oriole, Alario Finches; Rufous-backed Mannikins; Blue Macaw; Blue-breasted Waxbills and Chinese Spectacle Thrushes.

Post Mortem Reports.

(*Vide Rules*).

For replies by post, a fee of 2/6 *must be sent;* this regulation will not be broken under any conditions.

ORANGE-BREAST WAXBILL and GOLDFINCH. (Henry Robbins). Cause of death, pneumonia.

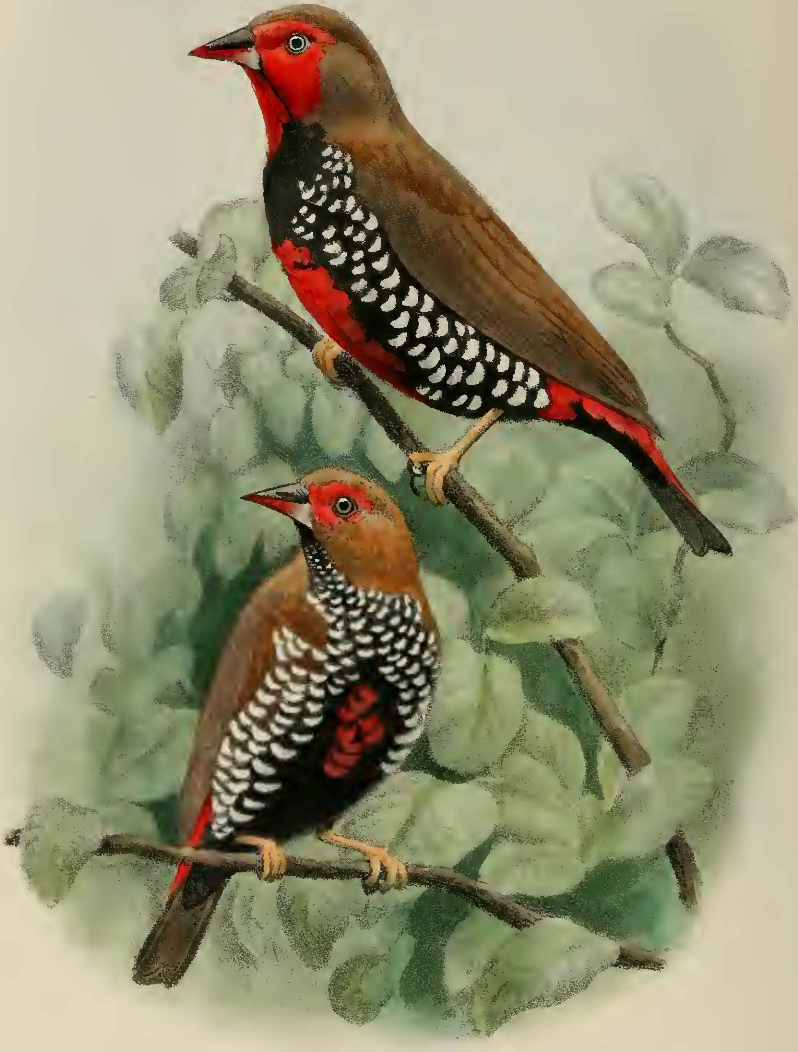
RED-WING PARRAKEET. (The Hon. M. C. Hawke). Cause of death, enteritis.

HARTZ MOUNTAIN CANARY. (J. D., Edinboro'.) The bird had enlarged yellowish kidneys, corresponding to "the large white kidney" of mammals. The lungs were congested in patches and no doubt this was the immediate cause of death.

COCK ZEBRA FINCH. (B. H. Creasy). Cause of death, pneumonia. Thanks for full details.

COCK TREE-CREEPER. (J. T. Porteous). The cause of death was pneumonia. There were also some blood spots (petechiae) in the thickness of the cranial bones, enlarged and fatty liver; and a sawdust like material in the gizzard.

Answered by post: E. J. Brook. HENRY GRAY, M.R.C.V.S.



H. Goodchild, del et lith.

Huth, imp.

THE PAINTED FINCH.

Emblema picta

From living specimens in the possession of W. T. Page, Esqre.

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BIRD NOTES:

— THE —

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

The Painted Finch.

(*Emblema picta*).

By WESLEY T. PAGE, F.Z.S.

It would be merely a waste of space to indulge in any eulogy of these beautiful and uncommon birds with Mr. Goodchild's faithful drawing accompanying these notes. Till this season (1908) they have been almost unknown to English aviculture, and even on the Continent the species has only been represented by odd specimens at long intervals.

About Easter, 1908, Messrs. Payne and Wallace brought over a large consignment of Australian birds, etc., among which were fifteen pairs of this lovely species; a pair of which came into my possession about the middle of May, and though they never became really fit (at least the ♀ did not), for a time hope ran high, a nest was built and much occupied, but all my hopes were effectually extinguished by the death of the ♀ on August 2nd. When the body was opened the organs were all in a normal and healthy condition, except the liver which was slightly jaundiced. The ovary contained quite a number of minute eggs, which only made the occurrence the more disappointing.

I have much regretted since that I let my fears, as to the behaviour of larger species in my outdoor aviary, prevail; as I strongly incline to the opinion that they would have fared better out of doors, at any rate during the summer months; if more are imported I shall certainly try my luck with them in the open.

After making extensive enquiries I found that the probability of my procuring another hen was practically *nil;* I sold the ♂ to one of our members for exhibition purposes, and it was successful for its new owner at the L.C.B.A. recent show.

Thus ended (for the time being at any rate) my high hopes and expectations of breeding the species. I think one of our members has recently quoted "Hope for the best and expect the worst" as the motto of the aviculturist, but I should like to alter this a little, as follows:—Hope for the best and accept failure, if it comes, merely as a stepping stone to future success.

However, I had the pleasure of observing these birds for a period of about four months; they were confined in a large cage in my outdoor bird-room, their demeanour under these conditions being exactly similar to that of Gouldian Finches. The male Painted Finch when going through his dance and uttering his love song, which is accompanied by the swelling out of the breast, neck and head plumage, brings out the brilliant scarlet areas to their fullest extent; the plumage is an arrangement of sharp contrasts, which the courting movements of the male exhibit to the fullest advantage.

When they had been in my possession about a month I placed a square nest box near the top of one corner of the cage; it was a hollow cube about 6″ square, with a wire netting bottom, and the top quite open, with an oval hole in the front for entrance; into this they carried quite a large quantity of hay, constructing a well-woven dome-shaped nest, building it with fine hay, green grass, and such feathers as found their way into the cage, but the untimely death of the hen occurred before any eggs were laid.

The drawing from which the beautiful plate, forming the frontispiece of this issue is reproduced, was made when my birds were looking their best and my hopes were highest; however I should say the ♂ was very fit all the time he was in my possession and never caused me any anxiety. I also wish to bear testimony to the accuracy and faithfulness of Mr. Goodchild's drawing in every respect, and the result certainly surpasses any coloured figure I have yet seen of this species. It almost appears a superfluity to give a description with such a plate, but as our associates only get uncoloured plates, a general indication of the plumage must be given to make these notes complete.

Description. *Adult male:* Upper surface pale nutmeg brown, darkest on the nape and mantle; lower back and upper tail coverts rich scarlet; tail feathers blackish-brown, lightly tinged with scarlet on the margins; lores, eye region, front of cheeks and chin, centre of neck and chest brilliant scarlet; throat and under surface of body black, sides of breast and body regularly scaled with pure white crescentic markings. By reference even to the uncoloured plate the areas of scarlet on the face, chin, throat and chest are plainly discernible, being shown as whitish on the lithograph. Under tail-coverts black and underside of tail brown; upper mandible black, tipped with scarlet; lower mandible scarlet, blue at base. Total length 4¼ inches.

Adult female: Similar to the male in general body colouring, but has only a small area of scarlet round the eye and only a few crescentic scarlet markings in the centre of chest; the entire absence of scarlet on the cheeks, chin and throat, being alone an ample distinction between the sexes. The white markings of the under surface are continued right up to the base of the lower mandible. A reference to the plate will make these distinctions quite clear.

It only remains now to gather together by paginal reference the disjointed notes that have already appeared in various issues, and I much fear these additional notes contain little that is new.

Of the aforementioned fifteen pairs, so far no record is to hand of any success in breeding them. With several they have nested, our esteemed members Mrs. K. L. Miller and Messrs. Keith-Murray and Hetley have all got as far as eggs, but in no case has a single youngster been hatched out, and Dr. Hetley has been equally unfortunate as myself with the female. I certainly hope sufficient females will survive the winter to give some chance of the species being perpetuated in captivity.

The various nesting notes occur in current volume—July issue, page 135, and in October issue, page 180; further general notes were also given in July issue, pages 121 and 122.

Though little more than vain repetition I must repeat that the honour of introducing this species to English aviculture belongs to the late Herr Wiener. In 1869 he procured his first pair under the name of "Julian Finches"; while four years later he procured another pair under the name of "Australian Mountain Diamond Sparrows." Since that period till 1906 or 1907 I do not know of any living specimens having reached this country, and not in any quantity till Payne and Wallace's consignment of 1908, and unfortunately according to present indications there appears very little probability of any consignment coming to hand this spring. Habitat: Central and Northern Australia.

Aviary Birds I have met in their Natural State.

By DOUGLAS DEWAR, F.Z.S., I.C.S.

(*Continued from page* 217).

V. THICK-BILLED BIRDS.

The other thick-billed birds which demand our notice are the Weaver Birds and the Munias. These may, perhaps, be called quasi-finches. For all practical purposes they are finches.

The *ploceinæ* or Weaver Birds comprise a large family found in Africa, and South-East Asia. But their headquarters are Africa rather than Asia.

In India but five species have been described, and it is an open question whether *Ploceus baya* and *P. megarhynchus* are not varieties of the same species. *Ploceus baya* is the common Weaver Bird of India, being found all over the plains, except in Bengal and Assam, where it is replaced by the eastern variety. I cannot do better than repeat Eha's inimitable description of the *baya*. I quite from "The Common Birds of Bombay," a brilliantly-written little volume, which every ornithologist should make a point of reading. *Ploceus baya* "is a commonplace little bird, about the size of a Sparrow and marked very like a Sparrow. It easily passes for a Sparrow and does not care, but on a near view the two are easily distinguished, for a Sparrow is grey and brown, whereas the prevailing tone of a Weaver Bird is yellow. Its underparts are all of a dull yellow tint, and the feathers of the back and wings are bordered with brownish yellow. Its very bill is yellow. As the hot season advances the male gets itself a wedding suit, in which, I confess, it is rather a dandy. The crown of its head and its breast then become bright yellow and its face becomes black. But it resumes its humble workaday costume at the end of the rains.

Weaver Birds are more than sociable. They not only feed together in large numbers (chiefly on the seeds of tall grasses, also on grain crops) and sleep together in thousands among the mangroves that border all our large creeks (It should be remembered that Mr. Aitken is writing of Bombay), but they like to make their nests and bring up their young in company. At that time they become especially jovial and noisy. The books all say that the Weaver Bird has no song, and I will not maintain that its voice is musical, or that it makes any pretence to being a soloist, but it is grand at a chorus. When a glorious company of Weaver Birds join in song, the likeness to an after-dinner performance of 'He's a jolly good fellow' is most striking. Or sometimes I compare it to a party of British soldiers returning home from a festive meeting, whom the spirit of patriotism makes vocal."

Mr. Aitken then goes on to speak of the wonderful retort or flask-shaped nest of this species. But description is unnecessary. Every popular book on natural history contains pictures of the nursery of the Weaver Bird. Most interesting is it to watch Weaver Birds at work. They usually procure the thin strands of which the nest is composed, from the tall elephant grass which grows wild in India. It is, I believe called "Elephant grass" because it grows to about the same height as that quadruped. The Weaver alights on one of the nearly upright blades and makes with his bill a notch near the base of a neighbouring leaf. It then takes hold of the edge of the leaf above the notch and jerks its head backwards. By this means it strips off a thin strand. Similarly, while holding the first strand in the beak it tears off a second, a third, and perhaps a fourth and a fifth, and then bears these off in triumph to the nest. The leaves of the elephant grass are impregnated with silicon to such an extent that they lacerate one's skin if attempts are made to pluck them with ungloved hands. The material in consequence is well-adapted to nest construction. When once a strand has been pushed into position by the beak of the bird it is only with great difficulty that it can be extricated. Thus it is that a disused nest will defy the winds and rains of a monsoon.

I cannot leave the Weaver Bird without mentioning the ease with which it can be taught tricks. An account of some of these is given in most of the books on Indian Birds. In less than a week the clever little bird can be taught to pick a twoanna piece from off the forehead of its master whenever called upon to do so.

Many species of Munia are found in India. The Indian forms most commonly seen in aviaries are:

(1) The Nutmeg Bird, or Spice Bird, or Spotted Munia (*Uroloncha punctulata*).

(2) The Sharp-tailed Munia (*U. acuticaudata*). This species is not found in the plains.

(3) The White-throated Munia (*U. malabarica*).

(4) The *Amadavat*, or Red Munia, or Red Waxbill (*Sporæginthus amandava*).

(5) The Green Amadavat (*Sticiospiza formosa*).

As every bird-fancier is aware, these are all birds of diminutive stature, the smaller ones being only half the size of the Sparrow. This, together with the feebleness of their notes, probably accounts for the fact that many Anglo-Indians spend half a lifetime in the gorgeous East without ever observing a Munia in the wild state. Except at the breeding season, they go about in considerable flocks. These companies appear to wander about from one district to another. Notwithstanding the fact that I habitually go out walking with field glasses I only once, during the two years I spent at Lahore, saw any Spotted Munias, and on that occasion I came across quite a large flock of them. They feed largely on the ground, but may also be seen clinging to the heads of grasses when in flower. Oates states that they consume large quantities of grain crops. This I am inclined to doubt. They build globular nests nearly as large as a football. In some species, at any rate, several hens use the nest simultaneously.

* * *

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My Aviaries.

By H. WILLFORD.

(Continued from page 234).

NESTING NOTES.

In response to your request, Mr. Editor, I am supplementing the description of my aviaries with such notes of breeding results as my somewhat incomplete data permits me to give.

BRONZE-WING PIGEONS (*Phaps chalcoptera*): These laid their first egg on July 11th, their nest being constructed of a quantity of twigs placed in the aviary for their use: these twigs were placed on a bundle of straw, partly overgrown with hops. The young, which proved later to be a pair, were fledged in thirty-two days from the time of the first egg being laid. The old birds have now (Nov. 25th) a second pair of young just ready to fly.

DIAMOND DOVES (*Geopelia cuneata*): This year have not done so well as usual, two only being fully reared; the probable cause being that there were more cocks than hens, which caused a great deal of sparring.

COMMON QUAIL (*Coturnix communis*): Two young were successfully reared out of a clutch of seven eggs, laid in a nest which was constructed amid the growth of a grass-covered bank. There were eight eggs at first, but of these the cock broke two. I then placed the other six under a bantam and four hatched, two being subsequently reared. The old pair I then removed to a larger aviary, which contained a pair of Harlequins, with which they agreed quite well. Here another nest was found and seven eggs were laid, then finding she did not lay any more I took away the cock and the Harlequins. She brought off a brood of six, but one was picked up dead a few days later after a heavy shower, the remaining five are now full grown.

RUFOUS-TAILED GRASS FINCHES (*Bathilda ruficauda*): These started housekeeping in August, but had evidently been sitting some time before the fact was discovered. The nest was constructed of hay, loosely woven on to a bale of straw, there was no lining of any kind, the nest was domed, and both shared the duties of incubation. Three eggs were laid all of which hatched out. and the young were all fully reared. The young were of an even darkish brown colour.

LONG-TAILED GRASS FINCHES (*Poephila acuticauda*): One pair of this species have built, and successfully reared no less than four broods, ten in all. The first two nests were built in a large bush and constructed of grass stalks and hay without any lining, although these birds, like all the Australian finches, are very partial to a few feathers with which to make their nests cosy; each nest contained five eggs and from the first, four were reared, while from the second, three; after which the old birds were put into another aviary, where they soon built again and, from two nests, three young were fully reared, two and one respectively. Both these nests were built in a bale of straw. The young were similar to their parents, but with black beaks, smaller bibs and much duller in colour.

RED-BILLED WEAVER (*Quelea quelea*): I have read somewhere of this species having been bred before, but do not remember where. A pair built a dome-shaped nest on some pea sticks in my first avairy some three years ago. The nest was built of hay woven together, with a long narrow tube for entrance and was shaped like a retort. A rather extraordinary feature about their nesting was that the hen had lost a foot before coming into my possession, and was obliged to go about on one foot and a stump.

Two eggs were laid, of a very pale blue tint, about the same size as those of the common Sparrow; these were duly hatched (time of incubation not known), and the young were duly reared on seed alone.

The young, so far as I remember, were similar to their mother.

[Almost an unique occurrence in this country, and it is unfortunate that the details are not a little more complete, especially as to age and method of the first assuming of adult plumage.—ED.]

MASKED GRASS FINCHES (*Poephila personata*): These birds built a nest in some long grass, on a bank in my wilderness aviary; the nest was constructed of hay and wild grass stalks woven together and thickly lined with feathers; every time the old birds went to the nest they took a feather with them. The nest was dome shaped.

How many eggs were laid I cannot say, as the entrance hole was so small that it was impossible to see anything inside. Three young, however, left the nest but were only partially feathered and were picked up dead.

Soon afterwards the old birds went to nest again, and this time also one left the nest before it was properly fledged and died, so I removed the other young with their parents to a cage in the bird-room, where it was suceessfully reared.

The young was a dull brown with black beak.

ZEBRA FINCHES (*Tæniopygia castanotis*): These have done well, upwards of thirty from three pairs have been fully reared.

CUTTHROATS (*Amadina fasciata*): This species has proved very prolific; twelve young have been fully reared from two pairs. These birds I have found dangerous in mixed company, throwing out the young of other birds and then occupying the empty nest themselves.

BLACK-HEADED GOULDIAN FINCH (*Poephila gouldii*): Have not yet fully reared any young, but a pair have now a nest of young in the wilderness aviary apparently doing well, the frost and cold weather not seeming to affect them in the least.

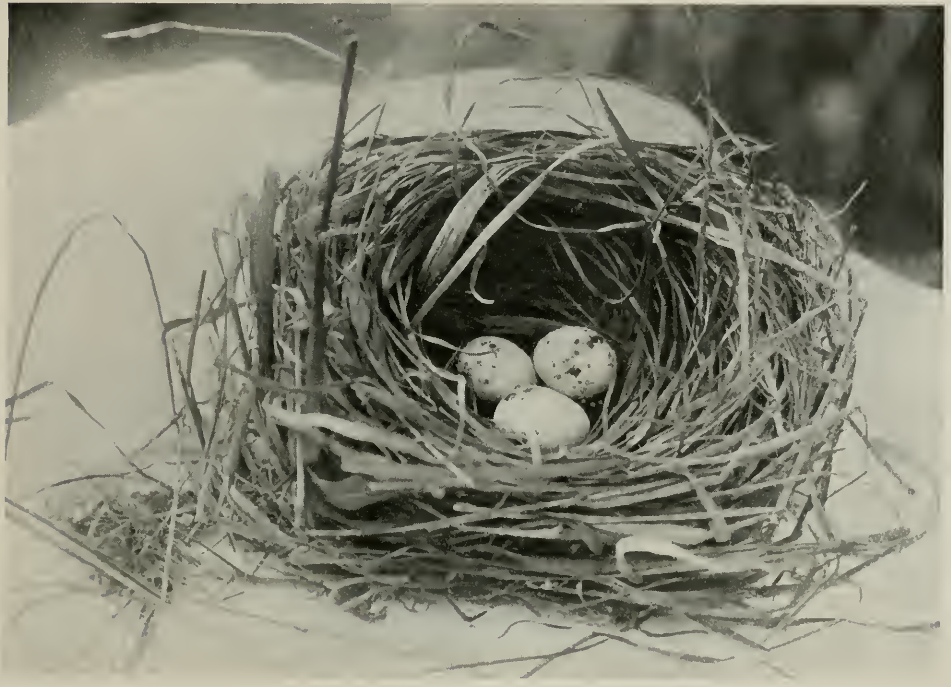
BRONZE-WINGED MANNIKINS (*Spermestes cucullata*): Have not yet bred, but are now sitting on a clutch of three eggs in a domed nest constructed in a fir bush.

GREEN AMADUVADE (*Stictospiza formosa*): Have not bred this season though a nest was built and several eggs were laid a week or two ago, but did not hatch out, as they were out of doors and the eggs were probably spoiled by frost.

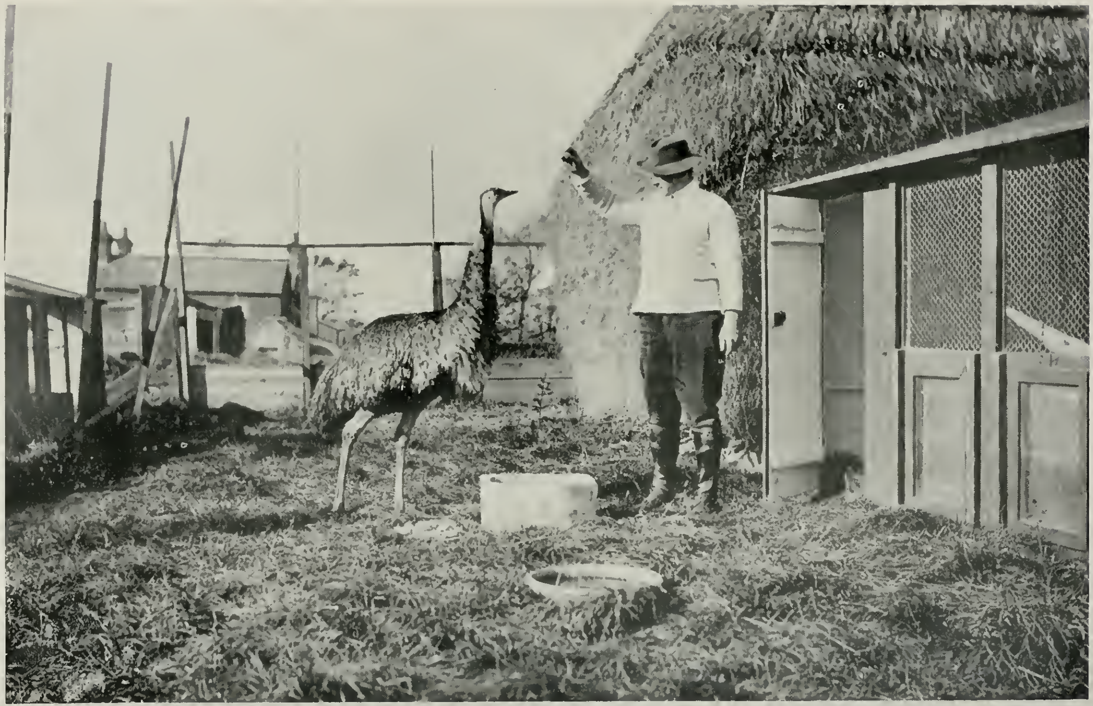
GREEN SINGING FINCH (*Serinus icterus*): Did not breed till quite recently, they had three young nicely feathered, but the cold of a few weeks ago was too much for them and they succumbed on leaving the nest.

CHESTNUT-BREASTED FINCH (*Munia castaneithorax*): These nested and two eggs were laid, but they were stolen, and they have made no further attempt at nesting.

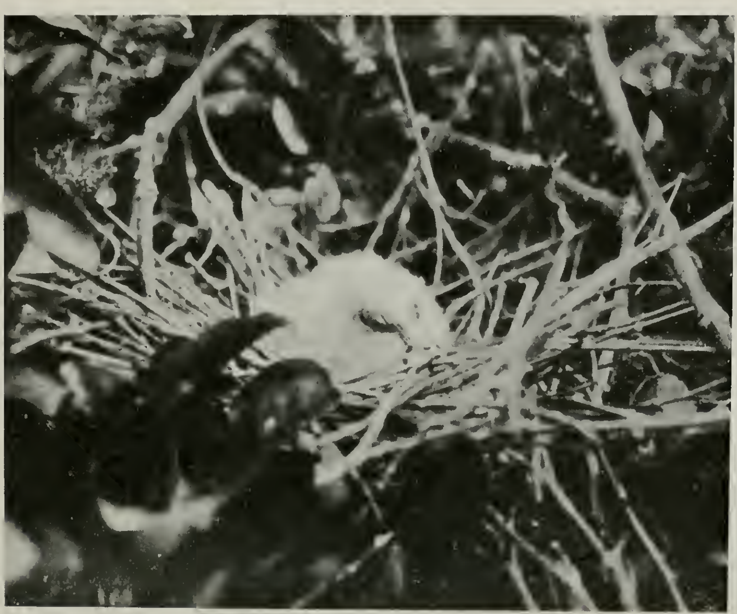
GOLDEN-BREASTED WAXBILLS (*Sporæginthus subflavus*): This charming and diminutive species nested and hatched out three young, which were fully reared. The nestling plumage being plain buffish brown.



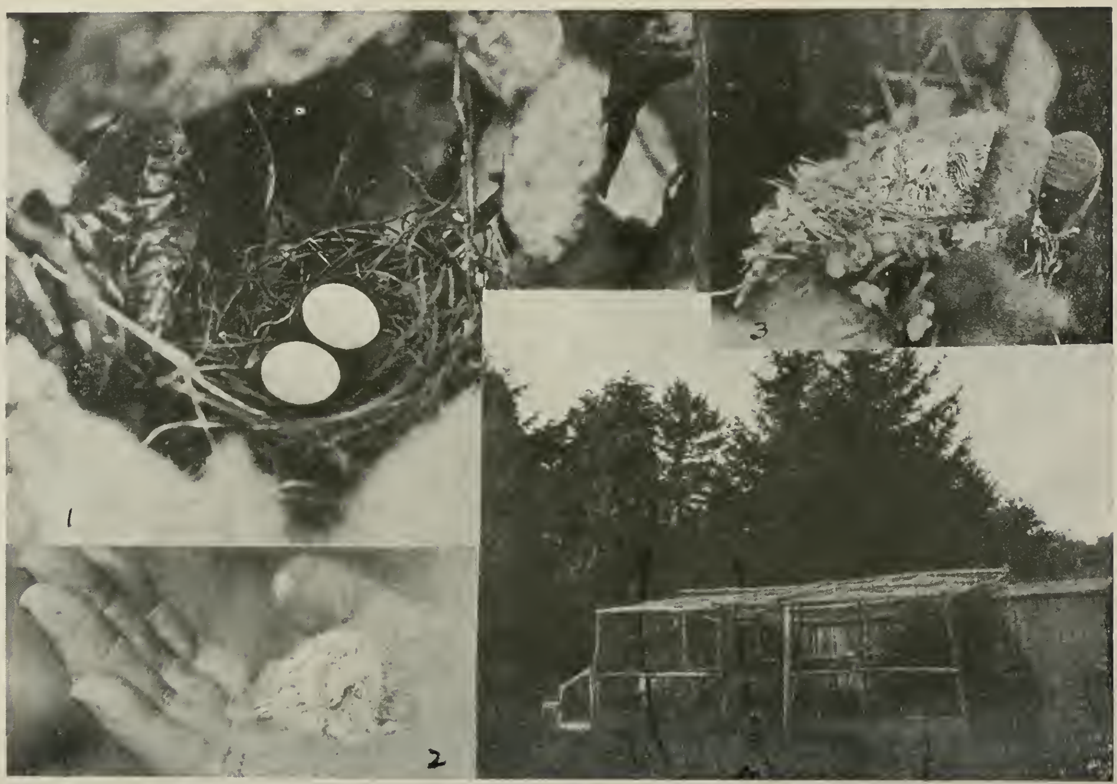
NEST AND EGGS OF THE RUDDY-SHOULDERED COWBIRD



SPOTTED EMU, *Dromæus irroratus.*



YOUNG BRONZE-WING PIGEON.



1—NEST AND EGGS BRONZE-WING PIGEON. 2 and 3 FLEDGELING PEACEFUL DOVE 4—MR. H. L. SICH'S LATEST AVIARY.

WHITE JAVA SPARROWS (*Munia oryzivora* var. *alba*): No young have been reared up to the present, owing to their first nest being appropriated by the Cutthroats. They are now sitting on five eggs, but the cold weather may prevent success.

Among others that have reared families are:—Bengalese, Silverbills and Budgerigars.

No Parrakeets have been reared, although Redrumps and Cockateels have laid.

RUDDY-SHOULDERED TROUPIAL or COWBIRD (*Agelœus humeralis*): These have nested (*vide* plate) on several occasions, and as many clutches have been laid, but, although the birds are excellent sitters, nothing has come of it; all the eggs so far having proved infertile.

SPOTTED EMUS (*Dromœus irroratus*): These birds (*vide* plate) came into my possession about three months ago, being a pair I procured from Messrs. Payne and Wallace, and on their arrival here they were driven into a large run, and, although tame, appeared very restless, walking up and down, up and down for hours.

The cock "Billy" unfortunately rubbed his neck and head badly *in transit* and consequently had to be doctored with ointment, which soon healed the wound, and the feathers have now nearly covered the bare place. After a few days both birds settled down, and are now so tame that they will come up to one to have their heads stroked.

They are fed on barley meal, made crumbly moist, and green food from the kitchen garden. They are now in a large grass run, in the centre of which stands a hay rick, affording them excellent protection from the not infrequent gales of wind. They also have access to a shed which is but seldom used (*vide* plate).

Apples they are passionately fond of. I am told that they find in their native homes the Emu apples which contain a large stone inside. My birds have always sharp gravel to pick over, which aids their digestion. Some days they are let out and will run up and down at a tremendous pace; they seem able to stop and turn like professional skaters, and sometimes they will twist their necks round and give a series of hops as if they were going to have a fit. They make a very peculiar noise like emptying a big water bottle at times, at others a kind of booming. Mr. Payne tells me the cock makes an entirely different noise to the hen.

They are very curious, and the first time I tried to photograph them they came within a foot of the camera and I was obliged to keep my weather eye open, as a dab from their beaks might have wrecked the apparatus; no doubt the dark focussing cloth and camera stand were novel to them.

When they came I was warned against dogs frightening them, but one day a fox terrier got in their enclosure, and instead of their being frightened they chased that dog about until it was half dead.

Their feathers are very peculiar, two being joined in one quill. I hope if they prove a true pair to be able to breed them next year, as they are only young birds and will have an unlimited grass run.

Ornithological Notes during a Midsummer Holiday in the Pennines.

By H. Goodchild, M.B.O.U.

(Continued from page 232).

On Monday, June 22nd, my recorded observations began in the evening with a pair of Partridges, which flew up from near where I had been told there was a nest. I had heard one calling on the first evening of my holiday, but these were the first I had seen. Later on in the evening (at 8.30 p.m.) I sighted the first Wheatear I had come across, a male. He seemed to be uneasy and concerned about my watching him (from the sky-line of a small steep rise) and flitted from the tops of boulders to the top of a stone wall and back again, calling "Chat! Chat!" at intervals. Over the highest lying patches of rushes and swamps, right at the foot of the hills, I heard Snipe drumming at a quarter to ten at night, and also the sound of what I took to be a Redshank. At ten o'clock, against the sunset sky, a Heron flapped his way northward. A few of these birds are about, but they are not common. and there is no Heronry anywhere near, that I know of. Soon after, a Snipe was seen, and at half-past ten a Corncrake, a Curlew, and Peewits were heard.

On Tuesday, for the first time in this part of the country, I saw and heard Sandpipers, a species common enough in some parts of Westmorland, and in the low ground again heard the Corn Bunting. The latter bird was not noticed anywhere near the village I was staying in, which was about 600 feet altitude, and my notes only record the Common Bunting in the lower parts of the Eden Valley.

The next day yielded observations of several Redshanks, no less than five being seen in sight at once, some coming near enough to me for me to make sketches of them on the wing. Peewits had formed themselves into considerable flocks and I saw about a hundred of them together.

I had long intended paying a visit to a neighbouring wood, just below the line of "fell pastures," and anticipated interesting finds. This particular wood was composed chiefly of hazel bushes, with some ash and oak trees interspersèd with them and at the top edges, hawthorn bushes which thinned out towards the open ground. A careful search of the wood seemed to show that the nesting season was about over and that the young broods had been taken away by their parents to more open country. An immature Robin was the only young bird noted, and the only nest discovered was a large one high up in the finest ash tree in the wood. No trace of living birds was seen about the nest and a long search of the ground around the tree revealed not even a feather to show what the owners of the nest were. I have little doubt, however, that it was the nest of a Carrion Crow. A "scar," as the bare rock or earth where land has slipped into a stream, is here called, was carefully examined for Sand Martins' nests, but without result, although later on in the afternoon I saw birds of this species in the open ground higher up stream. At a similar "scar" some miles away, I had found the nests and actually been able to examine the materials of which one was made, as the earth had slipped away and cut the face back to near the end of the tunnel. I had hoped to find Owls in this wood, but all I saw of them was a solitary wing feather, probably of a Long-eared Owl. Leaving the wood behind me, I moved up stream again, seeing a pair of Sandpipers, which seemed to have a nest in some rushes growing near the stream, but search as I would I could not find it. A flock of Missel Thrushes passed within range of my glass, eight of them, which by their churring disclosed their identity. I saw a Linnet (not a common bird in these parts) a male with a lovely rose breast, sitting on a hawthorn bush and singing; and not far off, the female and apparently, her young family with her. In the evening, a solitary Raven was seen soaring and croaking over one of the lower hills, apparently on the look out for carrion.

The Thursday was a bright day, and I set off by myself to go up Cross Fell. On the way, Grouse, Snipe, and Peewits were noted on the moorland, and twenty Starlings in a flock in one of the fell pastures. Making my way up the largest mountain valley in the district,* with Cumberland on my left hand and Westmorland on my right, I kept a look out for the Dipper, as all along I had failed to see it. Noticing what looked like signs of a nest amongst rocks at the top edge of the steep side of the valley, or "Gill" as they call it here, I climbed up towards it, and passed on my way beds of stones on the steep side of the mountain, and flitting over them a pair of Wheatears which uttered their alarm notes at me as I watched them, but hesitated to disclose the place of their nest and the young they were taking insects for. A Pipit also was seen close to them.

Passing the rough patches of stones, I arrived at the foot of a group of rocks which might have been arranged on their ends, one above another, by some Titanic hand. These were the rocks of the "Whin Sill" mentioned in the opening part of this article. No signs of an actual nest could I see, but only clumps of heather growing amongst the rocks. Putting my binocular away in its case for safety, I clambered up through a neck in the rocks, and gained what seemed to be the favourite spot in the group. Round this I carefully searched and found two "casts" or pellets of undigested remains, such as are thrown up by Falcons and Hawks. One of these casts contained the pieces of bones of some mammal, that might have been a rabbit, broken into pieces half an inch and less in length, as if they had been smashed by some human being with a hammer. These pieces of bone were matted together with hair or fur I could not identify, but which was most like that of a rabbit. The second pellet or cast contained a large number of the wing cases of some beetles, of a beautiful deep blue. Either the bird which had thrown it up must have been an industrious collector of *Coleoptera*, or else had alighted on a considerable party of the unfortunate beetles. I found several feathers, all of a colour and size which showed them to have come from a large *Corvus*, undoubtedly a Raven. Returning to the rock that projected most over the valley, and looking out over the stream I had climbed up from, I could well understand it being a favourite resting place for such a wary bird as a Raven. Although it could have been approached from behind without one being seen until one was within gunshot, one was just as likely to miss it if one tried to find it and to pass within a hundred yards of it without discovering it, still the view from the rocks themselves was the most comprehensive I ever saw in this district. The stream below could be seen in an unbroken line for a mile or more, and the next ridge to the south, although nearly as high as Cross Fell, could be seen practically from top to bottom, and miles beyond that the Pennines stretched out to the southward, while to the west, not only the big shoulder of Cross Fell was seen, with the Limestone crags on a level with these rocks, but many miles of the Eden Valley, across to the Lake District Mountains. After contemplating this fine view for some time, I noticed a Raven sail over the valley to the south side and watching it with the binocular, saw it alight close to the carcase of a sheep ; the bird walked cautiously round this and took bits here and there, but every minute or two appeared to take a look around to see if anyone was approaching. Having had a meal, he sailed away round the shoulder to my right, and a Kestrel appeared from the direction in which the Raven had vanished and flew over the Gill to the south side. This was the first Hawk of any kind I had identified, as it passed just near enough for me to see the reddish colour with my binocular. (*To be continued*).

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*Vide Plate facing p. 220, "The Haunt of the Dipper."

The Birds of India.

By Douglas Dewar, I.C.S.

[*A Lecture delivered before the Indian Section of the Royal Society of Arts, and reproduced by kind permission of the Author and R.S.A.*]

From the Journal of the Royal Society of Arts.

Of the birds of India, it may truly be said "their name is legion." He who would treat of them in a short paper must perforce confine himself to generalities. I, therefore propose to devote the time at my disposal, firstly, to a consideration of the general characteristics of the avifauna of India, and then to pass on to some aspects of the study of bird life.

Literary critics seem to be agreed that we who write about Indian birds form a definite school. "Phil Robinson," they say, "furnished thirty years ago a charming model, which all who have followed him seem compelled to copy more or less closely." Mr. W. H. Hudson remarks: "We grow used to look for funny books about animals from India just as we look for sentimental natural history books from America."

In a sense this criticism is well-founded. Popular books on Indian ornithology resemble one another in that a ripple of humour runs through each. But the critics err when they attempt to explain this similarity by asserting that Anglo-Indian writers model themselves, consciously or unconsciously, on Phil Robinson, or that they imitate one another.

The mistake made by the critics is excusable. When each successive writer discourses in the same peculiar style the obvious inference is that the later ones are guilty of more or less conscious plagiarism. But such an inference is drawn only by those who have not enjoyed the advantage of meeting our Indian birds in the flesh. To those who do possess this advantage it is clear that the birds themselves are responsible for our writing being funny. We naturalists merely describe what we see.

The avifauna of every country has a character of its own. Mr. John Burroughs has remarked that American birds as a whole are more gentle, more insipid than the feathered folk of the British Isles. Still greater is the contrast between English and Indian birds. The latter are to the former as wine is to water.

India is peculiarly rich in birds of character. It is the happy hunting ground of that unique fowl, *Corvus splendens*—the Splendid Crow—splendid in sagacity, resource, adaptiveness, boldness, cunning, and depravity—a veritable Machiaveli among birds. I might almost say a super-bird.

The King Crow (*Dicrurus ater*) is another creature which can be described only by superlatives. He is the Black Prince of the bird kingdom—the embodiment of pluck. The thing in feathers of which he is afraid has yet to be evolved. Like the mediæval knight, he goes about seeking those upon whom he can perform some small feat of arms. In certain parts of India he is known as the *Kotwal*—the official who to many stands forth as the embodiment of the might and majesty of the British *raj*.

When we turn to consider the more outward characteristics of birds, the Peacock (*Pavo cristatus*), the Monal Pheasant (*Lophaphorus refulgens*), the so-called Blue Jay (*Coracias indica*), the Oriole (*Oriolus kundoo*), the White-breasted Kingfisher (*Halcyon smyrnensis*), the Sunbird (*Arachnechthra zeylonica*), the little Green Bee-eater (*Merops viridis*), and a host of others rise up before us. Of these some, showily resplendent, compel attention and admiration ; others, of quieter hues, possess a beauty which cannot be appreciated, unless they be held in the hand and minutely examined, for each of their feathers is a poem of exquisite beauty.

At the other extreme stands the superlative of avine hideousness, the ugliest bird in the world—*Neophron ginginanus*, the scavenger vulture. The bill, the naked face, and the legs of this creature are a sickly yellow. Its plumage is dirty white, with the exception of the ends of the wing feathers, which are shabby black. Its shape is displeasing to the eye ; its gait is an ungainly waddle. Nevertheless, such is the magic of wings, even this fowl looks almost beautiful as it sails, on outstretched pinions, high in the heavens.

THE HORNBILL.

Between the extremely beautiful, and the extremely ugly birds, we meet with another class having superlative attributes—the extremely grotesque. This class is well represented in India. The Great Hornbill (*Dichoceros bicornis*) and the Adjutant (*Leptoptilus dubius*) are birds which would take prizes in any exhibition of oddities. The former is nearly 4½ feet in length. The body is only 14 inches long, being an insignificant part of the bird, a mere connecting link between the massive beak, and the great loosely-inserted tail. The beak is nearly a foot in length, and is rendered more conspicuous than it would otherwise be, by a structure known as a casque. This is a horny excrescence, nearly as large as the bill, which causes the bird to look as though it were wearing a hat, which it had placed for a joke on its beak, rather than its head. The eye is red, and the upper lip is fringed with eye lashes which add still further to the oddity of the bird's appearance. The creature has an antediluvian air, and one feels, when contemplating it, that its proper companions are the monsters that lived in pre-historic times. The actions of the Hornbill are in keeping with its appearance. Each morsel of food is tossed into the air and caught in the bill preparatory to being swallowed. Mr. E. V. Lewis describes the Hornbill as the best short slip in the Zoological Gardens. Hornbills are the clowns of the forest.

THE ADJUTANT.

Even more grotesque is the Adjutant. This is a Stork with an enormous bill, a tiny head, and a long neck, all innocent of feathers. From the front of the neck hangs a considerable pouch which the bird can inflate at will. Round the base of the neck is a ruff of white feathers that causes the bird to look as though it had donned a lady's feather boa.

It is the habit of the Adjutant to stand with its head buried in its shoulders, so that, when looked at from behind, it resemble a hunchbacked, shrivelled-up old man wearing a grey swallow-tailed coat. It looks still more ludicrous when it varies the monotony of life by kneeling down. Its long shanks then stretch out before it, giving the impression that they have been mistakenly inserted hind part foremost. Its movements partake of the nature of a cake-walk. "For grotesque devilry of dancing," writes Lockwood Kipling, "the Indian Adjutant beats creation. Don Quixote or Malvolio was not half so solemn or mincing, and yet there is an abandonment and lightness of step, a wild lift in each solemn prance which are almost demoniacal. If it were possible for the most angular, tall, and demure of elderly maiden ladies to take a great deal too much champagne and then to give a lesson in ballet bancing, with occasional pauses of acute sobriety, perhaps some faint idea might be conveyed of the peculiar quality of the Adjutant's movements." If the Hornbill be the clown of the forest, the Adjutant is the buffoon of the open plain.

(To be continued).

Hanging Parrakeets.

By Captain G. A. PERREAU, F.Z.S.

Our worthy Editor is asking for articles on Parrakeets and though not an expert on the subject, I venture to think that an account of my experience with these delightful little birds will present some interesting points, more especially now that they are more frequently imported than formerly, judging from advertisements. Little seems to have been recorded about their habits in captivity and that little has been rather unfavourable. They certainly are not as clean as small seed-eaters, but are far cleaner than any fruit-eater I have kept.

I procured six at the end of 1904. These were, I think, the Indian or Vernal (*Loriculus vernalis*). They did not survive long, three died quite soon in camp and the other three impressed on me the necessity of watching birds when newly turned out into the aviary. As usual, these birds came into my hands with clipped wings. About the end of May (1905) I found I had not the time to attend to them in a cage while their quills were growing, and as the weather was hot and the aviary well branched I had no hesitation in turning them out. How I wished afterwards that I had done so earlier when I should have had leisure to watch them. I watched them for a bit running up and down some rather "solitary" longish twigs that hung down from the main branches on the roof to quite close over their food table. Next morning they were hanging from the tips of those twigs—quite dead. They did not understand going round, a foot more up, two feet along, say four feet down the side, and then a little way out to the table, all along branches, and they could have gorged. I must say I have found no others as foolish as these, but they got more help at first. I have found no bird stand a fast so badly as these Bat-Parrakeets as Mr. Finn appropriately names them. They do not seem to mind a long night, though I fancy a night feed would do them no harm, but they must feed frequently during the day. They (I am now writing of *L. galgulus*) used to object strongly to any delay in replacing their food dishes when taken away for cleaning and replenishing. They flew, actually flew when they usually crawled round, to the seed pans, ostentatiously eat nothing, though they really eat a fair quantity of seed, then back to their food table, then sulk a bit and if kept any longer they filled up with seed in an aggrieved fashion; no silliness about these.

They are strictly arboreal, I have seen them walking about on the ground but very seldom, and doubt their ever doing so in a state of nature; they looked out of place there. They seldom fly except for exercise and at the courting season; when they do go in for flying exercise they are truly lovely. Few birds look and are (according to my experience thoroughly understood) so gentle and few can look so fiendish; though it is all bluff, their vicious expression seems most effective. With fear and trembling I have watched them in my bird room here, when a large portion of the Indian birds I brought home with me were loose at the same time. Their favourite perch was the wall end of a certain stick. My dear old Musky Lorikeets also liked this perch and often had it owing to the need for frequent stoking up on the part of *L. galgulus.* My Rosy Pastors also thought they liked this place, but they seldom got nearer the coveted end than the middle of the stick, though they talked a lot, mostly bad language, and full of threats. Still my birds could see they were only bluffing. The Muskies would not hurt anything, but gave the impression of going in for some good-humoured horse play; their practical jokes on each other and their noisy conversation would make any quiet loving bird avoid their neighbourhood. Anyhow this hardy old couple have always been used to having their own way. Back came the Blue-crowned from having a gorge at the nearest bit of fruit, coming up hand over hand at a great pace over the cages; a bit of deliberation and the necessary little bit of fly on to the end of the stick is accomplished. The Pastors turn from cussing the Muskies who do not notice their attentions, but continue boisterously chaffing each other, and pour a torrent of abusive language at the inoffensive-looking little birds sitting upright and quite still at the very end of the perch. Then the nearer little bird turns towards the enemy, crouches a bit, stretches out his (or her) neck and opens his beak to an almost incredible extent and stays quite still while the partner gets as near as she is able and backs him up with a similar face. Then he takes a short little run straight along the perch in the same position, quite different from the sidling attack of the Budgerigar, nor is the head moved round in the circular snaky style of the Lovebird. I fully expected the villainous Starling "dig" and then to see the mandibles opening well inside the little bird's head. But the Pastor's flew peaceably, if not quietly away, to cuss away elsewhere. It was rather an anxious moment with the Muskies too, but they rapidly decided that it was time for more food.

To get back a bit—I soon got some more, Blue-crowned this time, of which one pair and one supposed hen (which turned out a cock later) survived for a long time. An accident on the way up gave me no chance of keeping some I purchased later, bar another supposed hen which also turned out a cock. I had little luck with another small lot, which I obtained in the Spring of 1906. In plumage the cock began to assume the red throat-patch in September 1907, the yellow band on the back having appeared some time before, how long before I failed to note, but less than six months at any rate. By Spring 1908 the throat-patch was not in its full glory, but I think that was the fault of the individual, as my other young cock moulted straight out in one Autumn, which is their moulting season. Of course this other cock may have been older when I got him, but I had him about eighteen months before he showed any signs of change of plumage. I think one may safely say they do not attain adult plumage till two years old.

(*To be continued*).

Mrs. Anningson's Collection of Parrots, Cockatoos, etc.

By W. T. Page, F.Z.S.

(*Continued from page* 227)

Great White-crested Cockatoo (*Cacatua alba*): This is another very uncommon though well-known species, rivalling a Macaw as to size, but of course with only a short tail. It is very seldom on the English market, and such species as reach this country mostly come *via* the Continent. As its name implies it is an all white bird save for the inner web of the quills and tail feathers, which are yellow; naked skin round the eyes bluish-white; bill black; legs and feet blackish grey. A narrow white circle surrounds the eye; the irides are black ♂, brown ♀. Length over all 18 inches.

The specimen herein described was in perfect plumage and I certainly deplored the absence of the camera, which alone prevents figures of some of these fine creatures illustrating these notes. When this bird is excited and the crest (5 inches in length) is raised and the bird stands erect, this fine creature has an imposing and majestic appearance. This species as a whole cannot be classed as talkers, neither did the specimen in question so entertain me, but most individuals are excellent mimics and some learn to speak a few words. Young specimens soon become tame and make excellent pets. I may say here that for the majority of the Cockatoos a seed mixture of maize, oats, wheat, hemp and sunflower seeds, should form the staple diet, supplementing this with ripe fruit, green food, raw carrot, plain biscuit, nuts in variety—not omitting cuttlefish, grit, and branches of pine or willow for them to chew up. Habitat: Eastern Moluccas.

GOFFIN'S COCKATOO (*Cacatua goffini*): A pair of the finest specimens I have ever seen represents this charming species in the collection. This species, apart from its being very uncommon, is to my mind one of the most beautiful of the white cockatoos, either when at rest or displaying itself in all its glory. In a healthy specimen the plumage has a lovely bloom, which must be seen to be appreciated, and which was present to the fullest degree in Mrs. Anningson's well conditioned pair. The plumage is white; the base of the hind feathers of crest is yellow; under side of wings and tail pale yellow; bill, creamy with a slight bluish tinge; legs and feet light lead colour; irides deep black. Length over all about 12½ inches.

The female differs from her lord and master in several respects, viz.: she is decidedly smaller—her crest is smaller and not so full—the underside of her wings and tail are only slightly tinted with yellow—she is much quieter in demeanour, and her irides are brown.

It is an intelligent species, and is both a talker and good mimic.

They nest in holes of trees, three or four eggs are deposited on the bare wood and are pure white in colour—the young mature slowly, taking fully three years to reach maturity. Hab.: Tenimber Islands (*B.M. Cat.*)

HYACINTHINE MACAW (*Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus*): This is rare indeed and almost unknown outside Zoological Gardens, and even in these places the specimens are limited to ones and twos. Our esteemed member is certainly to be congratulated on so rare an acquisition. Of course so huge a species cannot be everybody's pet, neither are they very suitable for town or city life, where one often finds neighbours anything but kindly disposed towards one's bird-keeping propensities; but it is easy to understand the fascination they possess where one can give them the accommodation Mrs. Anningson is able to, and the houses are some distance apart; their intelligence and companionable demeanour soon attach them to their owners. The adult bird is puce-blue, lighter on the head and neck, but duller on the undersurface; underside of tail black; naked skin round the eyes, and at base of lower mandible bright yellow; bill black; legs and feet blackish-grey. Total length 34 inches, of which the tail measures 20½. Hab.: Brazil.

From the specimens I have been acquainted with at the London Zoo. it certainly is a most attractive and intelligent species, and from its demeanour with the keeper, one which can be fondled and petted in spite of its large size, once it has become thoroughly acquainted with you.

Little or nothing is known of its wild life, but though living where hollow trees abound, it departs from the custom of its tribe and hollows out a burrow on the bank of some stream in which to rear its brood—at least so reports Azara.

GLAUCOUS MACAW (*A. glaucus*): More rare if anything than the preceding which it closely resembles, but it is of a greyer hue, and the head and neck of a decided greenish tinge; cheeks, throat and crest slightly tinged with brown. Total length 29 inches, of which the tail measures 15. Hab.: Paraguay, Uruguay and Southern Brazil. (*B.M. Cat.*)

This specimen was in faultless condition, and though I did not venture to take any liberties out of respect for his formidable bill, it was perfectly gentle with its fortunate owner, as with one or two exceptions were all the species described in these notes, and even more so with the maid who assists in attending to their needs.

The Hon. and Rev. F. G. Dutton describes the Hyacinthine and Glaucous as being gentle and ready to allow anyone to handle them, and that though he always approached strange Macaws with caution he, though having made the acquaintance of some half-dozen specimens, found them all alike good tempered and safe to fondle.

RED AND BLUE MACAW (*Ara macao*): This gaudy and handsome species is represented by a fine ♂, and among the many I have met with I have never seen one to surpass it for richness of colouring, tight and silken plumage.

The late Dr. Greene describes this species as being the "king of all Macaws": his size, 38 inches over all, of which the tail measures 24—grand plumage and proportions give to him a truly regal aspect.

Dr. G. also describes him as docile, gentle and teachable, while Bechstein says "they learn to repeat many words—to go and come, and also to obey the least signal from their master." But I must not linger or these notes will get beyond the patience of my readers.

Adult: Rich scarlet is the prevailing hue; lower back, rump, upper and under tail coverts light blue. Wings: upper coverts scarlet; greater and median coverts and scapulars yellow, with green tips; flights deep blue. Tail feathers scarlet, with black shafts, the outer tail feathers almost wholly blue; under surface of tail golden-red. Naked skin of cheeks flesh colour; upper mandible white, with the tip and edges blackish; lower mandible black.

Female: Similar to the male as to colour areas, but the hues of her plumage not so rich or pure.

Habitat: Brazil, Guiana, Mexico and Peru.

(*To be continued*).

The Breeding of the Quaker Parrakeet.

(*Myopsittacus monachus*).

By John Cheetham.

This interesting species, one of the few of the nest-building parrots, enjoys quite a number of popular or vernacular cognomens, as follows:—Monte-Video Parrakeet—Monk Parrakeet—and Grey-breasted Parrakeet, in addition to the one at head of these notes.

I first made the acquaintance of this species in early March. They settled down at once, and actually began to build by the end of April, choosing a large barrel in which to construct their nest; the nest was a huge affair, constructed entirely of straight twigs, mostly cut off the branches in the aviary by themselves. Both sexes took part in the building operations, carrying all material in their beaks. Outside the barrel they erected a sort of vestibule or porch of twigs, attaching them to the wire netting and making the whole construction very tidy. On May the 15th, one egg was in the nest, of the same colour, size, and shape as those of the common Ring Dove. Four eggs formed the clutch, one egg being laid each day till the clutch was complete. Incubation commenced with the first egg and during this period they were very cross and noisy when the nest was approached, but although a great number of people came to see the nest, they neither deserted their eggs nor permitted them to go cold.

The first youngster was hatched on June 12th, thus making the period of incubation in this instance 31 days. Three young were hatched, of which two were fully reared, one dying just after leaving the nest and one egg proving infertile. They left the nest about six weeks after hatching, being then fully feathered and exactly like their parents, but a little smaller. The infertile egg was kept in the nest during the whole period.

The young were reared on dry seed alone, the parent birds leaving the scalded seed, which I provided for them as soon as the young were hatched, severely alone. It was very interesting to notice that, as the young grew, they enlarged their home by pulling the nest to pieces bit by bit, till eventually the nest disappeared entirely from the barrel. The young when first hatched were quite naked, in fact exactly similar to young Budgerigars only larger.

My Latest Aviary.

By H. L. SICH.

The whole of the flight of my aviary consists of a square of 17 feet, the top is pitched, making the East and West sides, which are 6 feet high at the eaves, the ridge is 8 feet. I thought a good slope would make it less comfortable for cats to sit upon. The North and West Sides are boarded up as well as part of the South, the top and the East side; except for the first 16 inches up from the ground are exposed. The aviary lies slightly towards North-East and South-West. A partition running North and South divides it into two flights, one 10 feet wide the other 7 feet; these can be connected by a door in the upper half of the division and a little sliding wooden door for the ground birds to go through; both doors are in a corner which helps in any driving that is necessary. The door of the larger flight, which is made to swing to, is on the East side and opens outwardly into the "wide world," which must be remedied. The frame is made of small tree trunks with the bark on, fixed together with iron bolts and nuts, this give it a much better appearance than straight boards of painted deal, but it will not last so long and was much more difficult to fix the wire netting to. The uprights rest upon tiles to keep the wet out; the flight and shelters are only attached to the ground by a strip of-zinc 12 inches wide let into the ground and nailed to the frame-work.

The house or shelter of the larger flight, called the Finchary, is on the North side. It is 6 feet long, 4½ feet wide, ridge 6½ feet, eaves 6 feet; it is made of battens and one inch matchboard. The top is covered with vulcanized roofing felt over the matchboard. There is a little door at one corner to enable one to get at the seed and water utensils. The side facing the flight has the top third boarded up, but leaving a 2½ foot doorway in the centre, the ends are boarded down to the ground covering a space about 18 inches on each side. Nest boxes of various shapes, fir and hazel branches, nailed up with one end free, are placed inside. The floor of the house consists of six inches of sand which is deep enough to deep it dry. The great difficulty is to give shelter and have the house open enough for the birds to go in at night; the birds always have preferred to roost and nest outside and get drowned rather than go inside.

The flight is planted out with a clump of bamboo which is flourishing very well, also several small Cypress and similar trees from two to three feet high; these afford good shelter for Quails, and several larger Fir trees, reaching nearly to the top of the aviary: they are grouped together as close as possible and form good nesting and roosting accommodation as long as they live, but are rather too large to move without proper treatment, which one cannot give in an aviary. They have to be renewed every spring, the old ones can be planted elsewhere and covered with climbing plants, etc.

Round the sides I have put in cuttings of Briars and Willows which, besides affording green fly for such species as eat them, also adds much to the appearance of the aviary, as the Briars were covered with bloom in the early summer. The ground is covered with grass wherever I can get it to grow; this is kept short except for a patch left longer for the Quails to hide in. I try to make things look as natural as possible; the birds—Grass-Finches and Mannikins—look so much better, to my mind. amid growing greenery than when the floor is cemented down.

The smaller division is called the slip, being a slice off the aviary of 1907, which was pulled down and rebuilt rather larger than before. This is planted out and furnished in much the same fashion as the larger flight and lies along the West side of it. The house is only about four feet wide and nearly the whole of the front is open; it is 4½ feet to bring it on a level with the other house, so forming a small space 4½ feet by 3 feet: this is wired in and forms an outer entrance, inside of which is the door to the flight and a small door into the house. In this were kept some Pekin Nightingales and a pair of Australian Quails.

[Nesting Notes, etc. will appear in next issue.—Ed.]

Editorial.

THE SLATY-GREY FINCH (*Spermophila analis*). When writing up this genus (vide Vol. VI.) I had never seen a living specimen, but about two months ago our esteemed members, Messrs. Suggitt and Sutcliffe, jointly imported a number of South American birds; some are yet unidentified, but among them are specimens of *S. analis* and *S. lineata*, both of which are new to me as living birds. This species, though possessing a formidable bill, pale yellow in colour, is a handsome bird; its principle hues are slaty-grey of various shades, very pleasingly blended; it is larger and more robustly built than the majority of the *Spermophilæ*, they are not easy to tame in a cage; but from their demeanour under these conditions, this would not be so apparent in the aviary, as they only flutter wildly when their cage is closely approached. So far they have only taken seed, a little banana and green food—soft food and mealworms they despise. Unfortunately this consignment came to hand during the spell of raw cold weather which occurred in mid-autumn—they were on arrival in the midst of the change from nestling to adult plumage, and most of them got a chill, feather production was checked and in consequence the mortality has been very high. From the experience gained from these birds it is evident that some species of *Spermophila* need very careful hardening off, and I do not consider they should be left out of doors during their first winter in this country. I do not care at this juncture to revise the description in Vol. VI. which was from dried skins, but shall wait to do so till I am sure my specimens are fully adult. As I cannot trace any popular name for this species I have named it as above.

THE LINEATED FINCH (*Spermophila lineata*). This species was named Radiated Grosbeak by Lathom, it is an inhabitant of British Guiana and Amazonia; this also I described form skins in Vol. VI. and do not care to revise at present. There are evidently several changes between the nestling and adult plumage, judging both from the living specimens now to hand and also the series of skins at the British Museum. This is a smaller and slightly more slender bird than *analis*, but nevertheless recognisable as a Grosbeak at sight. It is also a handsome and pleasingly marked bird, with its arrangement of olive green, brown, black and white; it appeared to me to be the most confiding of the species, now I believe being introduced to aviculture for the first time. I shall defer further comment till I have had them under observation out of doors in the spring.

RED-THROATED BLUE TANAGER (*Tanagra ruficollis*). A very fine specimen in exquisite condition was exhibited by Mr. Maxwell at the recent L.C.B.A. Show. The adult male is of a dull blue, with a deep rufous throat. The female is very dissimiliar to the male being olive brown above, head and neck greenish-grey, under surface ashy grey merging into whitish on the abdomen. It is also known as the Orange Quit, and

Feather-tongued or Sour-sop Bird. It is fairly common in the orange groves of Jamaica. P. H. Gosse describes the nest as a very deep cup, of a coarse texture, and rudely formed of blades of grass and the leaves of *Olyra latifolia* interwoven with stalks of grass. He describes the eggs as white, thinly splashed with dull red, except at the larger end where the spots were numerous and confluent.

CUBAN TROGON (*Prionotelus temnurus*). Mr. Maxwell was also the exhibitor of a good specimen of this species, thus giving the visiting public the opportunity of seeing for the first time a living specimen of this family. Trogons have a very wide range, being found in fact in most countries which rejoice in a hot climate. They are paired-toed birds like the Parrots and Woodpeckers, and belong to the Order CORACIIFORMES, Sub-order TROGONES, and Family TROGONIDAE. This species is one of the least gorgeous of the family and is of a metallic bronzy-green above, pale grey below, becoming rosy at the ventral region; the wings are much spotted and barred with white. C. W. Beebe, in "Two Bird-lovers in Mexico," met with two species, viz. the Coppery-tailed (*Trogon amlignus*) and the Yellow-bellied (*T. citreolus*). Of the first he says:

> "It sat very upright and its tail hung straight down ..... The green of the bird's "back and tail was not conspicuous, but, when it darted up into the air and returned to its "perch facing me, the full glory of the delicate pink on its lower breast was apparent......... "The call of the Trogon, uttered specially towards evening when it came down to drink, "was a soft series of melodious notes...... regularly at dusk two of these birds went to roost "in a dense tangle of wild clematis."

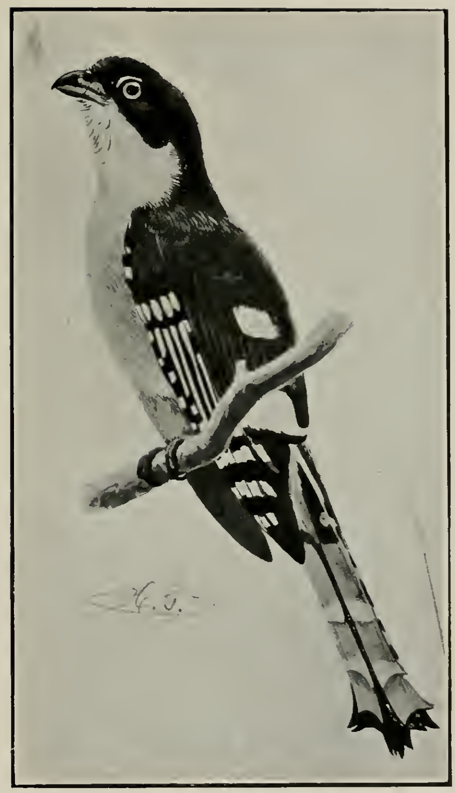
Of the latter he remarks:

> "Our favourite tangle was seldom without its completement of Yellow-bellied "Trogons—generally a closely associated flock of three or four individuals, betraying their "presence by an occasional soft chuck!......... These birds feed upon small berries which "grow on slender twigs, too slight to support the weight of the birds. Their custom is to "dart to the panicels of fruit, hover in front for a moment, snatch a berry, and return to "their perch to eat it. When several were feeding together upon one small tree, it was a "beautiful—brilliant sight. From the weakness and small size of their feet and legs, this "habit of feeding upon the wing would seem to be an inevitable one...... When at rest "their bodies were always turned towards us, iridescent green in the male bird and uniform "grey in its mate. When they left their perch, they fell forward, making a short drop "downward, shewing all the beauty of yellow, white and green. As suddenly they then "flashed upwards again and none but dull hues were visible."

In "BEAUTIFUL BIRDS IN FAR-OFF LANDS," by Mary and Elizabeth Carey, the following species are figured and described:

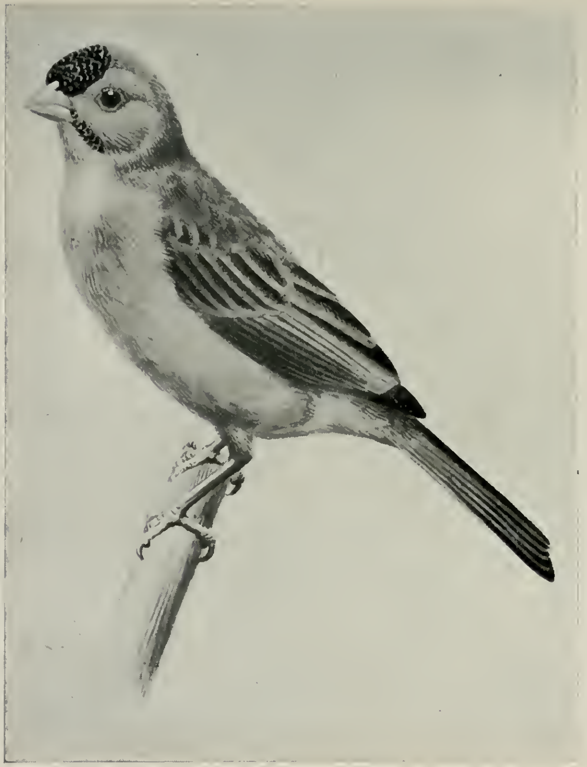
BEAUTIFUL TROGON: Upper surface shining grass green, washed with metallic blue on the nape and centre of back; wings blackish and ruddy brown; throat grass green; remainder of under surface rich scarlet; beak yellow; legs and feet plumbeous; upper tail coverts very long and and pointed.

MEXICAN TROGON: This glorious bird is principally the richest of shining grass green; the under surface from the breast downwards is rich scarlet, a longitudinal crest runs from the base of the upper mandible over



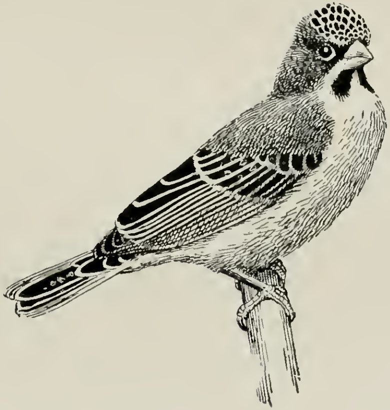
CUBAN TROGON,
Prionotelus temnurus.
Drawn from life.

We are indebted to the kindness of our esteemed member, Mr. F. Finn, for the loan of the block and permission to reproduce it.



THE BEARDED SCALY-CROWNED FINCH.
Sporopipes frontalis.

Drawn from life by H. Goodchild.



THE SCALY-CROWNED FINCH.
Sporopipes squamifrons.

From Cage Birds.
By courtesy of the Publisher,

the crown and nape; the lovely plumes of the upper tail coverts are fully a yard long. Words fail to paint this glorious tropical gem. It ia a native of Central America.

MEXICAN TROGON: Another species, but little behind the preceding in gorgeous beauty—head, neck and upper back bright green, a white collar crosses the throat and sides of neck; remainder of under surface rich scarlet; underside of tail mottled and barred black, bluish and white; bill legs and feet yellow. The tips of the tail feathers are rounded, those of the Cuban being truncated and the other two species flat and pointed.

The wings are feeble, and they do not keep on the wing for any length of time, only indulging in short flights. Food: fruit, berries and insects—the latter are taken on the wing, from the foliage of trees and also according to the Misses Kirby, by clinging to the bark, Woodpecker fashion, and digging with the bill. They nest in holes of decayed trees, the eggs being laid on the rotten wood—often an ants' nest is taken possession of and altered and adapted to the purpose of rearing a family.

THE GIANT BARBET *(Megalœma virens)*. A specimen in exceptionally fine condition was exhibited at the recent L.C.B.A. Show. This is one of the least gorgeous of a fine and interesting family. This species is also known as the Great Himalayan Barbet. The bill is shaped like a Toucan's, and is yellow with a light horn coloured tip. Head indigo blue, with lighter blue markings at bottom of neck.

THE BEARDED SCALY-FRONTED FINCH (*Sporopipes frontalis*). This species was unknown to English Aviculture when two or three pairs came to hand; of these an odd male went to the London Zoo, and being in the "Small Birds' House," when it arrived I was so struck with its appearance and rarity that I asked Mr. Goodchild to make a drawing of it and the result accompanies these notes. I have also reproduced, for comparison purposes, the better known Scaly-crowned Finch* (*S. squamifrons*). It is a much larger bird than *squamifrons*, and to my mind equally attractive, the rusty browns of the upper surface, with the colder coloured portions of the plumage forming a most pleasing harmony. It would appear as if they are less bright in winter, judging by the Zoo specimen—the markings on the front of the crown and on the moustachial stripes were pure white and were more spots than scalings, but at the present time they are only whitish and form a margin round each of the frontal feathers. If the bird survives it will be of much interest to note to what extent this may be true; the "B.M.C." makes no mention of any such distinction.

Description. *Adult male.* From the Zoo specimen as it appeared on arrival. The upper surface is mostly light brown, which is also the colour of the scapulars and wing coverts, these latter having whitish margins; bastard wing, primary coverts and flights dark brown, with light brown margins; forehead black, with small white tips to the feathers producing a regularly spotted or scaled effect; lores, sides of face and ear coverts greyish-brown; hind crown, hind neck and sides of neck rufous- or rusty-brown; moustachial streaks black, regularly spotted with fine white spots, little more than dots; the under surface is mostly greyish-brown, throat and abdomen white, sides of body olive brown; thighs and under tail coverts white. Total length 4⅞ inches, tail 1¾.

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* The publishers of *Cage Birds* kindly loaned the drawing from which the block was made.

Adult female. According to the "B. M. Cat." this is similar to the male, but slightly smaller. Total length 4¾ inches, tail 1¾.

Young male. The "B. M. Cat." describes this as similar to the adults, ut of duller hue and the lighter markings somewhat obscure and the forehead and moustachial streaks are black without any white markings.

Hab.: "Senegambia to N.E. Africa and South to Equatorial Africa." (B.M.C.)

S. squamifrons is also a S. African species and, according to Stark, its distribution is as follows:—

> "South Africa: from Northern Cape Colony, Griqualand West and the Orange Free "State, northward throughout the Transvaal, ranging into Matabili, Mashona and "Bechuana Lands, and extending to Lake Ngami, the Okavango River and the South of "Benguela, on the Mamaque and Damara Lands."

From the same source I cull the following:—That the Scaly-feathered Weaver Birds (Scaly-crowned Finch) are very abundant on the Orange River in small flocks among the bushes and mimosa trees that fringe the banks. They feed entirely on the ground on grass seeds and insects. They are active, vivacious, noisy and quarrelsome—also very tame, fearless, frequenting the houses and kraals to feed among the poultry and sparrows. For fuller notes see Vol. VI., *ante* page 310.

TINKLING GRACKLE (*Quiscalus crassirostris*). As will be seen in "The Month's Arrivals" two dealers have evidently had specimens of this species, which, though common in its native haunts, I do not think has been previously imported alive to this country. It is also known in Jamaica as the Barbadoes Blackbird and *Tin-tin*. It is very conspicuous and readily attracts attention by its familiar demeanour, large size, lustrous black plumage and metallic tinkling cry. Their general method of progression is a walk, they very seldom hop—mostly ground feeders searching the roots of herbage for insects; they also frequent the backs, etc. of cattle, feeding on the ticks which infest their hides. In this respect and also in their general habits they resemble their compatriot the Ani (*Crotophaga ani*), also known as the Tick and Savanna Blackbird. The plumage is glossy black; it is also larger than the Tinkling, is of more pigeon-like build, and its bill, though smaller, resembles those of Hornbills and Toucans; the centre of the upper mandible is quite hollow, and in a specimen I have by me (kindly sent by Mr. E. W. Harper when in British Guiana), the arch of culmen is higher than the top of skull. As a comparison I quote the sizes of both species.

The Tinkling: Total length 14¾ inches, tail 7¾.

The Ani: Total length 12½ inches, tail 5 3/16.

THE MONTH'S ARRIVALS. So far we have been indebted almost entirely to Mr. W. E. Teschemaker, and interesting as the notes have been from his pen, this feature of our Magazine will be even more interesting and useful, if many others will send notes as to such uncommon arrivals they come across or hear of. I venture to urge this point strongly on each member.

ERRATA. On page 213, title, for *eryhrogenys* read *erythrogenys ;* on page 215, line 4 from bottom, for *are* read *were ;* on page 234, line 5 from bottom, for *shelves* read *sheds ;* on page 229, line 10 from bottom, for *Swannahs* read *Savannahs.*

Notes on The Clarionet Bird and Penduline Tits from Continental sources, unfortunately crowded out, will appear in next issue.

The Month's Arrivals.

A large consignment of Indian birds has recently reached the London market, comprising some rare and interesting species, for particulars of which I am much indebted to Mr. W. Frost. Mr. Frost writes: " Out of the Indian lot I have received the three Redstarts " (*R. rufiventris*), two Niltavas (*E. sundava*), one Himalayan Blue Flycatcher, three Bengal " Pittas, three Drongos (*D. paradisea*), one pair of Orange-headed Ground Thrushes (*G.* " *citrinus*), one pair of Lanceolated Jays and some Shamas. Amongst the remainder were " White-crested, White-throated, Red-throated, Black-throated and Grey Jay Thrushes, " Scimitar-billed Babblers (*P. erythrogenys* and *P. schisticeps*), Yellow Vented Bulbuls, Black-" headed Orioles and Gold-fronted Chloropsis."

I hope to see these this week. W. E. T.

* * * *

I recently saw at Mr. Hamlyn's six Virginian Cardinals which had just come over. These were very steady, but I hear they are generally so wild on arrival that they have to be kept in a darkened cage. The Americans must keep a very close surveillance on their exports for few indeed are the species that are now smuggled through from the States. Nevertheless the process of extermination by gunshot continues, and several of the American Game-birds have almost reached the vanishing point. There are known to be several races of the Virginian Cardinal, but has anyone noticed that there are at least two distinct types of song? At one time I had several individuals (and heard others) which sang a soft, dainty, warbling strain, but all those I have had during the last ten years have sung loud, dominant notes which could be heard two hundred yards away. This latter type of song runs as follows:—" *T-weé-o; tchoo-tchoo-tchoo-tchoo* (ad. lib.); *chur-r-r-r-r.*"

W. E. T.

* * * *

Three birds have recently been imported from Jamaica which have not perhaps been quite satisfactorily identified. Mr. Thorpe had two and Mr. Luer one. Mr. Thorpe called his "Tinkling Grackles" but Mr. Luer called his a "Black Cassique." I saw the latter specimen and it certainly did not resemble any of the Cassiques that I have seen, the *Cassicinae* having certain well-marked characteristics as, for instance, naked nostrils, long pointed beaks and the prehensile habits of the true Hangnests. This was a thick-set bird quite as large as a Jackdaw, with a stout almost corvine beak, and entirely black, the plumage having a beautifully silky lustre. Its carriage was graceful and singularly erect. The name given by Mr. Thorpe has an unfamiliar sound. We have all heard of a "Tinkling Cymbal" but a "Tinkling Grackle" will be strange to most of us. Our Editor has very kindly looked up the species and sends me a tracing which agrees well with the general appearance of Mr. Luer's specimen.

It appears that *Quiscalus crassirostris* is also known as "Barbadoes Blackbird." Its whole plumage is glossy black with steely reflections; length 12½in., wing expanse 18¾in., tail 5¼in, In its general habits it resembles the Tick Bird, its food consisting chiefly of the parasites which infest cattle. I cannot, however, attempt to give any opinion on the question of identification as I was not able to examine Mr. Luer's specimen closely.

* * * *

W. E. T.

Mr. De Von has lately received three beautiful cock Pine Grosbeaks—the first I have seen for a long time past. Apart from its symmetry and the harmony of its plumage, this species is remarkable for that wonderfully tame confiding disposition which is shared by several other migrants which come to us in winter from the great lone North-land, as for instance the Meally Redpoll and the Crossbill. W. E. T.

* * * *

From Continental sources several interesting and uncommon birds have found their way to Mr. Millsum's birdroom, viz.:—

Red-throated Laughing Thrush (*Garrulux ruficollis*). All the Laughing Thrushes are birds full of character, and very desirable for those who have space to accommodate them; nevertheless they do well in any cage not less than 3 by 2 by 2 feet. Their hues are somewhat sober, but nevertheless are beautifully harmonised, so that they are not merely striking but really handsome birds.

Orange-headed Ground Thrush (*Geocichla citrina*). This is a truly grand species for a good sized aviary or cage. Handsome as to plumage and a grand songster. There is a good specimen in the Western Aviary at the London Zoo, and again and again I have listened with delight to its sustained and varied song It is a bird of the Himalayas. Description: *Adult male:* Head, neck and almost entire under surface golden-orange-brown; chin and throat whitish; upper surface plumbeous or bluish-grey. Total length 8½ inches of which the tail measures 3 inches.

Paradise Drongo (*Dissemurus paradiseus*). These are truly regal birds, but must have ample space and not be mixed with any species weaker than themselves. Their glossy black plumage, handsome and large recurved frontal crest, long tail, the outer feathers of which are extended as bare shafts with an inch or more of their tips webbed on inner-side only. Its iridescent plumage is very brilliant when seen in a good light, with the varied steely and bronzy reflections. Our member is certainly to be congratulated on such acquisitions. W. T. P.

Post Mortem Reports.

(*Vide Rules*).

For replies by post, a fee of 2/6 *must be sent;* this regulation will not be broken under any conditions.

COCK PARROT FINCH. (Dr. J. Easton Scott). Cause of death, jaundice and pneumonia.

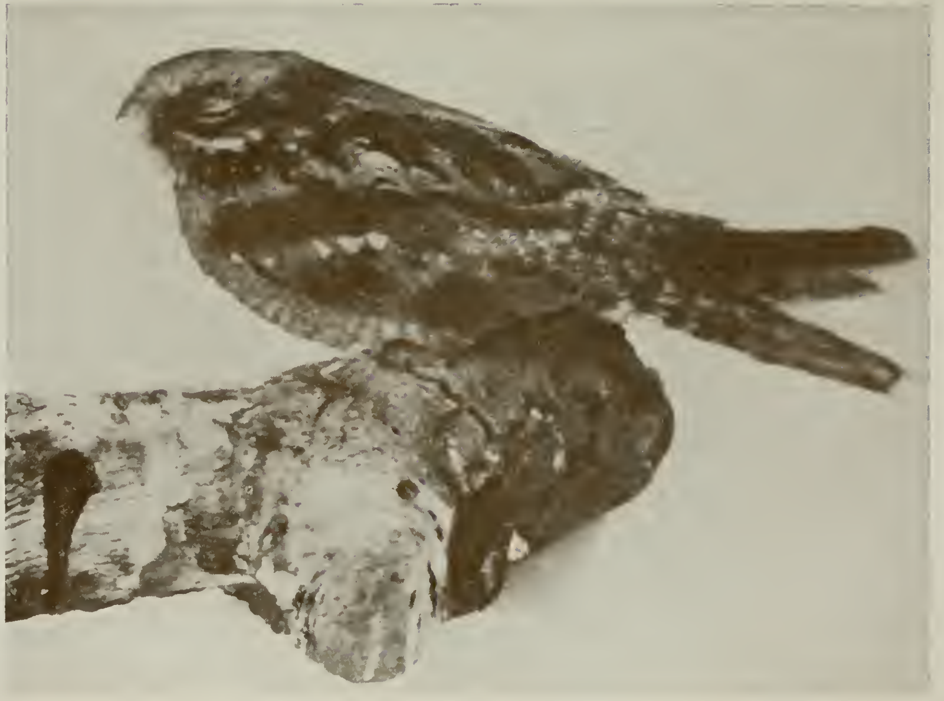
MALE GREEN BILLED TOUCAN. (F. C. Thorpe). Cause of death, the septic fever of Drs. Clarke and Creswell. The liver was enlarged and contained innumerable small yellowish nodular-looking spots. The spleen was enlarged and rounded and crammed with minute whitish points; kidneys enlarged, lungs acutely congested.

THREE YOUNG RUFOUS-TAIL FINCHES. (H. W. Mathias). The cause of death in every instance was acute hæmorrhagic enteritis and jaundice.

COCK BULLFINCH. (Henry Robbins). Cause of death acute enteritis. There was extensive blood extravasation into the thickness of the cranial bones.

Answered by post: H. W. Mathias. HENRY GRAY, M.R.C.V.S.

(*Continued in Inset*).



MR. GALLOWAY'S PET NIGHTJAR.
(*Caprimulgus europæus*).

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BIRD NOTES:

— THE —

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

The Nightjar in Captivity.

(*Caprimulgus europæus*).

By P. F. M. Galloway.

This species is one of the quaintest of our native birds and also one of the most interesting and in captivity is very uncommon, yet properly managed it soon becomes very tame.

The Nightjar is one of those birds that must be taken young and reared by hand, if it is ever to become really tame in a cage; for if caught when adult and caged, within about a month there would be but few feathers left on its body, and the bird a miserable object to look upon; even if it lived so long, which I am much inclined to doubt.

The feathers, especially those on the breast and back, seem to hang in the skin quite loosely, so that if the bird is handled and it should struggle the feathers fall out as fast as they do from a Wood Pigeon under similar conditions.

The whole plumage is very soft and downy, of somewhat sombre hue, yet there is something very beautiful in the exquisite pencilling and various tints of grey, brown, buff and black which adorn the garment of this quietly yet chastely clad species! The artist who is fond of producing a good picture with but a few colours on his palette can find no better subject for his brush than the Nightjar or Wryneck. The eye of the Nightjar is very large, being when wide open about the size of the top of a lady's large hat pin; the mouth is enormous, and if a person should miss putting food into the mouth of a young Nightjar then I certainly should not advise that person to try hand-feeding a Golden-crested Wren. The inside of the mouth is extraordinary, the skin of the lower half is very thin, the tongue unusually small for the size of the bird, is heart shaped and lies quite flat upon it; one might naturally draw the inference that the construction of the mouth denoted that its food consisted solely of small flies, moths and other winged insects of a soft nature; yet they readily eat in addition to these, cockchafers, dorbeetles and possibly other night flying species; the indigestible portions being ejected from the mouth in the form of pellets, as in the Shrikes.

To talk of a Nightjar or Swallow as a cage bird even a few years ago, would have been considered almost an impossibility, if it were not also described as an atrocity, and the declaration would have unhesitatingly gone forth that they were unsuitable for cage or aviary, and that the only humane course was to leave them in their native wilds. That was years ago, but by carefully studying the subject, it is now a known fact that not only can the Nightjar be kept in perfect health and condition, but even induced to breed in a room, as recorded in the interesting article which appeared in the November issue of this Magazine.

My experience teaches me that the Swallow and Nightjar can both be kept, even in cages, not merely for months, but years, and more; can be kept in perfect feather and vigorous health under the conditions of cage life.

My Swallow *I kept for seven years and seven months*; he was always in perfect plumage and health; often in song; he would sit in my hand and sing gaily whilst in that position. He was taken from the nest when seven days old and hand-reared by me.

My Nightjar I have now had three and a half-years and there is certainly not the slightest reason why he should not live and thrive for another similar period. This bird I took from the nest (if you can call the bare ground a nest) at the age of four days, it was then practically naked; its flesh being of a dark purplish colour, covered all over with pale straw-coloured down, very much like that seen on a young pigeon. He certainly was not handsome, in fact decidedly plain, even if not actually ugly; the nostrils were very prominent and the mouth, even at this age, apparently out of all proportion to the size of the head. I placed it in a small box without a lid, which also contained two young Thrushes, partially fledged; by this means I was able to give the Nightjar the natural blood warmth it needed. The Thrushes were fed every half hour, but the Nightjar only four or five times a day, the last feed being at 10 p.m. By the time the Thrushes were able to leave the box, the Nightjar had grown sufficiently to do without so much brooding, and I then covered it with a piece of flannel (doubled).

It was reared upon moths, large as well as small, larvæ of the cockchafers and small cockroaches; no soft cage food of any kind was given until the bird was about three weeks old. I then fed it upon the insects named (alive) also large mealworms, smal lbeetles found under sacks and boards lying upon the ground, and a small quantity of my insectile mixture, "Life," moistened and made into small pellets about the size of haricot beans; its growth was very rapid and it feathered well. A few drops of water were given each morning and evening.

When the bird had developed more, it did not remain continually in the box; it would run about the floor, running with its head well up and sometimes its wings carried straight up over the back (very much as seen in a Plover when alighting) and then would suddenly stop and squat flat on the floor.

As dusk came on it would call with a kind of double sounding croak pitched rather high; this he kept up for some time, until fed for the night, when he was at this time placed in his cage.

When able to fly well I would let him out of the cage for a fly round the room. I have done this ever since and he looks forward to the exercise: he is allowed out on the wing for an hour each evening. He has always been fed from the point of a hat pin; he does not peck at the food, but runs towards it with open mouth and, as it were, pulls it off the pin. When old enough to pull the food off the feeding pin I tried to induce him to peck his food up from the floor of his cage, but although I tried every inducement I could think of, it was all useless.

I placed live moths or other insects in front of him on the floor; he appeared not to see them, in fact took no notice of these struggling insects, but if it was picked up on the point of the feeding pin and lifted gradually until it was level with the eye—the moment it was level with the eye it would snap at and pull it off the pin instantly. I am inclined to think that the eye of the species is so situated in the socket that they are unable to see anything underneath the bill and so the line of sight is straight ahead and to the sides; for if a housefly approach my bird, when he is sitting in his favourite position—length-ways on the door of my room—as soon as the fly is level with his eye or anywhere above it, he squints horribly at it, makes a dash and but seldom fails to make a capture; he then returns immediately to his post, after the Flycatcher style; his flight is silent with very few exceptions.

These birds require a roomy cage so that when flying down from their perch (which should consist of a rough log, thick oak or elm, of about eight inches in diameter) they are not so likely to strike their long wings agains the back or front of cage. My Nightjar's cage measures 2½ + 1⅓ + 1½ feet high; there is a false roof of soft string netting (half-inch mesh). The front consists of a removable frame, over which string netting is stretched moderately tight; this prevents the bird injuring itself should it be suddenly startled: being soft the netting gives, thus preventing broken and frayed plumage. The cage tray or drawer is ¾ inch deep and kept covered with about a ¼ inch of pine sawdust; the perch, a piece of rough oak bough about ten inches long, is fixed to the back of the cage with a screw and placed only five inches from the floor, so that the bird need not use its wings to any extent in jumping down; along the front rail of the cage I have arranged a shelf two inches in width, the height of the shelf coming in a line with the eye of the bird, and thus I have managed to get the bird to feed itself. On the edge of the shelf I have placed a lot of ordinary pins fixed in firmly, sloping from front towards the back of cage, the heads are cut off leaving them projecting about one inch.

Soft food "Life" is made up in small pellets and placed on the pins; also cockroaches, mealworms, moths, grasshoppers, cockchafers, and any insect that may be found according to the season. The bird at feeding time runs to the front of the cage and takes the food off the pins: if his appetite is keen he will soon strip all the pins of food, when a fresh supply is placed in readiness. Since the bird has been full grown he has a scanty meal at eight a.m. and a full feed at night.

This species (at any rate in captivity) does not feed constantly like other birds, but thoroughly satisfies its hunger and then rests either on floor or bough. He takes a few drops of water from a spoon, but drinks very little. These birds are particularly fond of a sun bath; if the cage be taken into the garden he will lie on the floor and stretch himself out and bask in the sun like a cat on a sunny bank. They have many curious ways—one is in the preening of their feathers; before turning their head round to plume the feathers of the back or wings, they have a habit of swaying from side to side for several seconds.

The Nightjar has six or eight strong bristles, much like black horsehair, situated each side of the top mandible; these are renewed with each moult, and they are of great utility to the bird, as they act as a barrier against the escape of any struggling insect. For instance, I have noticed that, if the bird should capture a large moth by the wing, and should it be only held by the tips of the beak, the moth often escapes when the bird attempts to jerk it into the mouth; but should a large insect be caught at the side of the mouth the bristles prevents its escape and the bird immediately depresses its head and shortens its neck and remains quite still until the insect ceases to move, then it is suddenly jerked into the mouth and swallowed at a gulp.

Whether the Nightjar in its wild state moults twice a year I cannot definitely say, but my bird has a vernal as well as an autumnal moult, the former taking place in February, the latter early in September. They will at times dust themselves like a Lark; if fine dust is placed in its cage my bird will walk upon the heap and shuffle along with the breast low down. I seldom use sand, but take him on my hand and turn the water tap gently on him; it takes some time to get the feathers wet, and then only the ends are damp, as the water runs off as from a duck's back. If the feathers are well wetted, by keeping the tap going, the plumage does not become really smooth for two or three days afterwards: this shower bath is much enjoyed. He is exceedingly tame and regularly plays with my hand by running at it and pushing his beak between my fingers, croaking the while in an undertone. He was very restless during the first autumn of his captivity, the migration instinct evidently being very strong, but by taking him out of the cage and giving him flight and exercise he gradually quieted down and now there is no trouble with him at this period. He has got so used to the time for being allowed to fly about that he begins to run along the front of the cage eagerly looking for my appearance, just as the lions at Regent's Park look for the keeper at feeding time. When he has had his liberty for an hour I take him on my hand, open the door of his cage and he jumps off on to his bough with a croak of satisfaction and remains quite contented; he doze away the greater part of the daylight, but is always ready for me in the evening.

To anyone desirous of keeping this uncommon cage bird I should certainly advise their taking or obtaining one before it is a week old; they will then gape for food more readily and become very tame and interesting in captivity.

The Contagious Diseases of Birds.

By Henry Gray, M.R.C.V.S., Kensington, W.

The contagious or transmissable diseases of the bird are very numerous and important, not only from a scientific, but also from a practical, point of view, as the majority of bird fanciers, aviculturists, and poultry farmers can testify.

Formerly they were divided into *contagious* and *infectious*, the former being confined to those diseases that were contracted by *direct* or *immediate contagion*, and the latter to those that were supposed to be conveyed by the *agency of the air*. Since the true nature of the transmissable diseases are now known to be due to living organisms, these two terms are applied to one and the same thing and are interchangeable.

A contagious disease may therefore be defined as one that is capable of being conveyed by *direct* contagion, as rabies or contagious pleuro-pneumonia of oxen; or by *indirect* or *mediate* contagion as anthrax, Asiatic cholera and typhoid fever. The infectious or contagious element or virus is spoken of as the *contagium*, *contagion*, *infection* or *materia morbes*.

The above terms are also applicable to the malarial (piroplasmoses) and the surra (trypanosomiases) classes of disease where, in the majority of instances, gnats, ticks, flies, fleas, lice, etc., play an important *rôle* in their transmission, and also form intermediary hosts for the causal organism, which generally undergoes certain changes in these (the hosts) so as to be converted from a comparatively harmless into a most virulent material when introduced into the system of the animal by the puncturs of the insect or acarus.

Many of the tropical, sub-tropical, and even a few of the European diseases of man, mammals and birds are communicated by this process. Notwithstanding this, there are a few diseases belonging to these two groups that do not require the agency of an intermediate host, such as insects or acari, but are communicated by direct contagion or contact. The most notable instance of this is the Syrian equine trypanosomiasis or dourine, which is transmitted by copulation or inoculation. The bubonic plague of man, due to a special bacillus, is conveyed by the rat-flea.

All those diseases that are due to a micro-organism or microbe and can be transmitted to an animal, whether by direct contact, inoculation, the agency of insects, or food and water, are included under the generic term of *infective diseases.*

A great deal of misconception is still prevelant not only in the lay, but also in the professional mind, as to the *hereditariness* of certain contagious or infective diseases. It is quite true an animal or child may be born suffering from a contagious malady, but this is no proof that the disease is heredity. Unless the accidental germ be in the parent during utero-gestation no disease will arise in the fœtus. Even though the germ should be in the parent, the offspring frequently escapes.

To a disease appearing at birth the term *congenital* is given in contradistinction to the term *hereditary*, which is now only applied when the offspring develops some peculiarity, trait, or disturbance that is handed down from ancestors and appearing early or at some remote period after birth.

The contagious diseases are due to micro-organisms or microbes and parasites either belonging to the animal or vegetable kingdoms.

The micro-organisms are termed bacteria or protozoa, the former belonging to the vegetable and the latter to the animal kingdoms respectively. The science that deals with their natural history is termed bacteriology or micro-biology. When the protozoa are alone studied the term protozoology is applied.

The parasites are either vegetable or animal. To the latter belong the parasitic worms, insects, and acari, that are conveyed from one animal to another, either by direct or indirect means and thus induce disease. The parasites belonging to the vegetable kingdom are the moulds or fungi, which cause "ringworm" —commonly termed in poultry "white-comb"—and the aspergilli, which very often cause disease of the lungs, especially in birds. To this branch of science the term parasitology or macrobiology is applied. When the parasitical worms are only studied the science is denominated helminthology.

The micro-organisms are sometimes spoken of as *microscopical organisms*; or occasionally as *invisible organisms*. This latter term is only applied when the organism causing disease cannot be seen by the most powerful microscope yet devised. The former, when the microbe can be made out by the means at our disposal.

Some of the most virulent diseases of animals are now known to belong to the class due to *invisible* microbes. This class includes the following diseases: rabies, foot-and-mouth disease, cattle-plague, swine-fever, canine distemper, infectious anæmia of the horse, Cape horse-sickness, epitheliosis of birds (commonly termed by poultry and pigeon fanciers "sore-head," chicken-pox, pigeon-pox), leucocythæmia of fowls, blue-tongue of sheep, spotted disease of the tobacco plant, bird-plague, cow-pox, sheep-pox and, in man, yellow fever.

The *microscopical* microbes cause such diseases as diphtheria of pigeons, poultry and other birds, bird cholera, bird septicæmia, tuberculosis, spirillosis or spirochetosis, etc.

The common characteristics of the ultravisible viruses are (1) they have not been cultivated in artificial media outside the body; (2) they resist a high temperature, various chemical agents and even putrefaction; (3) they do not appear to grow outside the body.

The mere detection of a microbe in the blood, tissues, or discharges is no proof that it is the specific cause of disease, even though it may be cultivated in a series of artificial culture media outside the body and when injected produces disease. Koch's postulates laid down many years ago are found wanting, and to them must now be added another, viz.: that an animal must be immune to natural contagion before the specificity of a particular virus can be accepted. No doubt as time proceeds many of the alleged specific microbes of contagious diseases of mankind and animals will be proved to be not the specific cause but as secondary organisms only.

The formerly considered specific bacillus of swine-fever has now been proved to be only a saprophytic organism always in the body of the pig, which asserts itself when the system has been prepared by the ultravisible virus, which, when the animal has recovered, gives absolute immunity on exposure to pigs suffering from the naturally contracted disease.

(To be continued).

Hanging Parrakeets.

By Captain G. A. PERREAU, F.Z.S.

(Continued from page 257).

In October 1906 the hen showed great anxiety to nest, but neither of the cocks was at all willing; the two elder ones did not survive till the following October, but the younger one, in spite of his want of full dress, succumbed to the attractions and attentions of the old lady. Unfortunately he took so long to make up his mind that I had not the pleasure of even seeing eggs before my departure for England broke up their housekeeping. The old lady, too, could not make up her mind as to the best nesting site, she seemed to covet logs in the next aviary. Her special desire was for one occupied by Madagascar Lovebirds. She had similar (not to mention better) ones in her own enclosure, but the other was occupied and she and a hen Blue-wing spent much time shrieking at the Madagascars.

The display was more quaint and interesting than beautiful, bar the preliminary showing off flights, which were all the more appreciated as they seldom fly much. He would stand unnaturally erect, head and eyes straight to the front, head slightly drawn back, throat puffed out in the most extraordinary way, beak depressed almost out of sight in the throat bladder, so as to show off the top of the head, beak often dripping in an even more disgusting way than usual with parrots, soiling his bib, but the hen soon saw to that. All the time he sang, a horrid noise to human ears, but fortunately low. Even the hen could not stand it for long, but then she was anxious to be fed.

She was very keen on house hunting and explored more than I liked. One Gouldian cock on eggs got a broken beak and had to be despatched, but that casualty was put down (rightly, I think) to an evil tempered Blue-wing who could not, or would not lay eggs, though she sat steadily for weeks at a time. Still nesting Parrakeets and Finches are best kept apart if it can be managed.

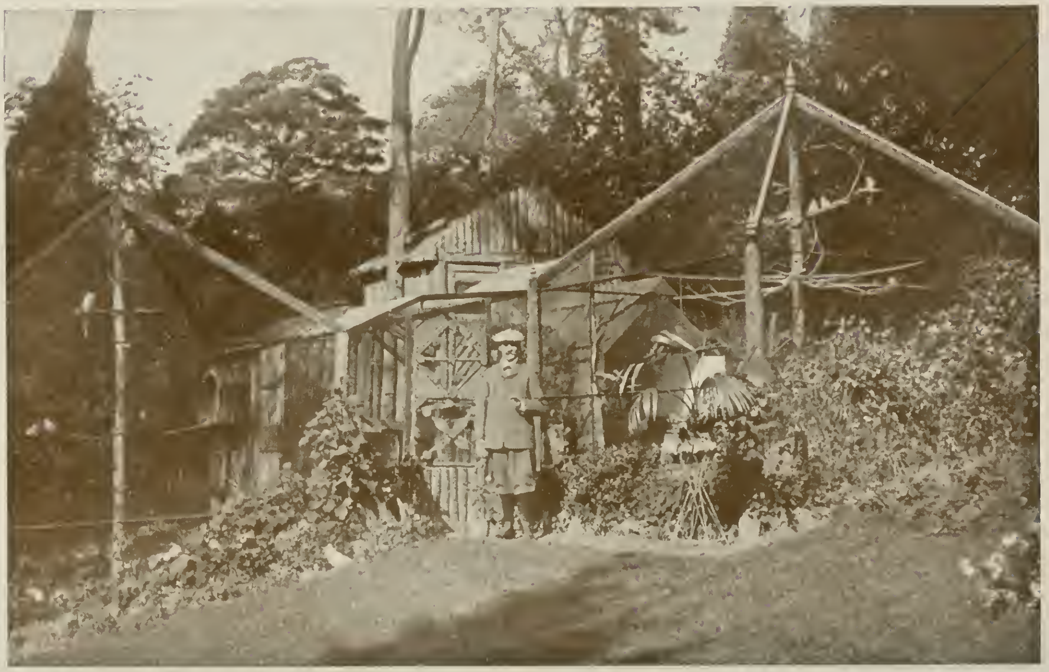
She had a most curious habit of carrying small chips tucked in among the upper breast feathers, I might almost say the lower throat feathers as she liked to get them in as high up as possible, going through curious contortions to get them there. My Blue-winged and Madagascar hens did the same (but that is another story). I cannot say for certain which species started it, but the Hanger was the first to be seen at the game. Her unusual position on the ground away from seed trays first attracted my attention and I saw her tucking away small bark chips (gnawed off by larger Parrakeets). Afterwards I saw her carry off all sorts of odds and ends, hemp and canary husks, small bits of stems and petals of flowers, flakes of cuttle fish, all small. Lots (apparently all) fell out at once, but inspections of her nest boxes showed that she did get a good lot of rubbish into them. She showed no inclination to sit steadily even when I restrained my curiosity to give her no excuse for shifting her quarters.

As to food I think the best staple is boiled rice with milk poured over it. The rice should be properly cooked, each grain soft but separate, not the sticky mass many English cooks insist on serving up, and which none of my birds would touch. I am told the fault lies in not allowing the rice to strain long enough on the range. I know that any cook can do it right if you stick to it. Mine also eat a great deal of soaked gram (a sort of pea), a certain amount of canary and rather less of hemp seed. They are very fond of sweet fruit (bar stone fruit which none of my Parrakeets cared for), green stuff and flowers, if placed convenient. They are by no means lazy birds, on their own ground or rather branches, but they like things convenient. Dealers try to force them on to hard *seed* alone, which I am sure is not good for them. I have seen and had birds on hard seed which were lovely to look at, but they had little go in them and were not long lived. When I go out again to India I shall try to get birds that have not been "seeded off." To tempt them to nest I shall give them fairly large boxes with small entrances, empty, and with chips in them, and one at least nearly filled with tightly packed hay.

They drink little, but water should be placed handy for them. I have seen them bathe occasionally in a half-hearted way, but they prefer to sit on the edge and get splashed by other birds.

Once acclimatised they seem to do well and stand cold well. My aviary (Indian) consists of a shelter, verandah and flight ; the Finches also get some shelter along one side of the flight under the eaves of our house. This bit of shelter is all that my Blue-crowned have ever used. They occasionally go into the verandah for seed (their own food is close to them) but I have never seen them in the shelter and they always roost in their own corner under the eaves, high up, generally but not invariably hanging head downwards. Hot damp, as might be expected, suits them well. They are particularly fit in the "rains" when many birds are mopey. Cold damp seems to do them no harm and I would not mind leaving acclimatised birds outdoors during an English winter, but the shelter would have to be good and the birds would have to use it. Our winter in the Punjab hills is cold, frost and snow, but we do get a liberal share of sun. As with some other bright birds the final moult of the cock into adult plumage is attended with danger. I have only had one hen that wished to nest so perhaps I am rather rash to give my experiences from a single specimen, but here they are for what they may be worth.

I have had the chance of getting the Red-headed Ceylon species, but did not take it, as I had the Blue-crowned, in my opinion far the prettiest of the three species I have seen alive. I fancy all the species are much the same in habits.



MR. MARMONT'S AVIARIES.

ALEXANDRINES' ENCLOSURE ON LEFT.

The Breeding of Alexandrine Parrakeets.

By W. B. Marmont.

A few notes, re my success in breeding this species, may probably be of interest to many *Bird Notes* readers. I do not purpose attempting to describe all the species and local races commonly designated Alexandrines, as I have not sufficient knowledge of them, but merely to treat of the one species that has bred in my outdoor aviary the past two years, viz., the Cingalese. A true pair came into my possession in the spring of 1905; I kept them in a large cage indoors for a few months, in order to steady them, get them accustomed to their surroundings and "At Home" with their owner. I transferred them to my garden aviary in the autumn and waited with much expectation for indications of a desire to reproduce their kind. I had not long to wait before such signs were forthcoming, they soon began whittling away at one of the logs provided for this purpose (said log being 3ft. long and of 5ft. girth), these preparations occupying about three weeks. During the first week of December four eggs were laid on alternate days, white in colour, their shape differing materially from the usual type, viz. oval, being quite round, in fact perfect balls and about the same size as those of an ordinary pigeon.

Incubation lasted three weeks which both shared, taking turn and turn about, they did not appear to resent me watching progress, nevertheless the eggs were guarded with a jealous care, but out of respect for their formidable beaks I did not take any liberties with them. The young are queer looking objects, their necks being abnormally long for the size of their bodies and are exactly like miniature geese ready for the "spit." They grow very fast as to bulk, but only feather slowly; they remain perfectly naked for three weeks; signs of plumage first appearing on the shoulders, next the tail, then the back and neck, breast and abdomen, and crown of the head, in the order given. They do not leave the nest under three months, and are quite dependent on their parents for fully another three months. The parent birds are most assiduous in the care of their offspring. This species has proved to be thoroughly hardy and appears quite indifferent to the roughest or coldest weather; the young are reared in midwinter without any difficulty and with merely ordinary attention.

From the above I deduce that anyone desirous of breeding Alexandrines need have no fear of success, providing they can offer them the accommodation of a garden aviary.

At the same time I cannot describe them as prolific, one brood only being reared annually so far as my small experience (covering two seasons) goes. If any other member has bred these birds I should be interested in hearing if their experience is in accord with the foregoing details.

Mrs. Anningson's Collection of Parrots, Cockatoos, etc.

By W. T. Page, F.Z.S.

(*Continued from page* 259)

Blue and Yellow Macaw (*Ara ararauna*): Another strikingly and gorgeously clad species of which Mrs. Anningson possesses a true pair, and one wished for them a strongly constructed aviary of sufficient size to give them a chance of reproducing their kind.

Adult: The upper surface may be described as deep blue, with the exception of the forehead, which is green; the whole of the under surface is rich yellow; under tail coverts green; underside of tail yellow, edged with olive green; naked skin of cheeks, lores and cere whitish-flesh colour streaked and lined with dusky; bill black; legs and feet blackish-grey. Total length 32 inches, of which the tail measures 12 to 13.

Female: Speaking of the pair herein described she was the smaller, and her plumage not quite so lustrous as that of the male.

Hab.: Tropical America from Panama to Bolivia and Guiana, and the whole Amazon valley.

The diet for the Macaws should be similar to that given to the larger Cockatoos.

New Guinea Eclectus Parrot *Eclectus pectoralis*): Mrs. Anningson's unique collection includes a true pair of this species and a male of *roratus*. Of these I can only say that they were exquisite to the eye in their gorgeous tropical plumage and apparently as happy, fit, and well, as birds can be.

Adult male: General body colour green; sides, under wing coverts and axillaries red; edge of wing blue; primaries and coverts blue; tail, two central feathers green, outer webs of outer feathers green and blue, all tipped with yellow; underside of tail black; iris red; bill, upper mandible vermilion, lower black; legs and feet dark blackish-brown. Length over all 18½ inches, of which the tail measures 5¾.

Adult female: The whole of the head, neck and upper breast, rich red; back, upper tail coverts and secondaries deep red; narrow ring round eye, band across back, edge of wing, remainder of under surface deep blue; tail deep red, lighter at the tip; iris light yellow; bill, legs and feet black. Total length 15¾ inches, of which the tail measures 4¾.

Hab.: Papuan Island, ranging eastwards as far as the Solomon group. This species is commonly known as the Red-sided Eclectus.

GRAND ECLECTUS (*E. roratus*): An inhabitant of the Moluccas; the male differs but little from the preceding species; the green is not so bright and of a yellowish hue. The female is red, with the chest, abdomen, nape and mantle purple-blue; band at end of tail and under tail coverts yellow.

On the Continent several have bred this species, and there are records of one each ♂ and ♀ reaching maturity.

The above is not given as a complete description, but merely the distinguishing features from *pectoralis*, which it closely resembles.

THE JAMAICA AMAZON (*Chrysotis collaria*). A fine and handsome species, very similar to the BAHAMA or WHITE-FRONTED AMAZON. Both of these species are very uncommon, though the nearly allied Cuban Amazon (*C. leucocephala*) has been rather frequently on the market during the past two years. The principal body plumage is green, with the feathers of the hind head and nape margined with black; forehead white, crown tinged with blue; neck, cheeks and throat dull red; the sides of the face tinged with blue and the cheeks bordered with white below the eyes; outer web of larger wing feathers blue; outer webs of secondaries green; upper and lower tail coverts yellowish-green; tail green with the tip yellowish, outer webs of outer feathers blue; bill whitish horn; legs and feet flesh-colour. Total lengh 12 inches of which the tail measures 4⅜.

According to the B.M. Cat. the female resembles the male.

Hab.: Jamaica. This species was named the Red-throated Parrot by Latham. It is a striking and handsomely plumaged bird, and the specimen described above was in excellent condition but did not impress me as an intelligent bird.

THE WHITE-FRONTED AMAZON (*Chrysotis bahamensis*). I am of the opinion that this species would be best called the Bahama Amazon, as White-fronted comes very near to the White-headed or Cuban (*C. leucocephala*), and the White-crowned (*C. albifrons*). This species is so called by Mr. J. L. Bonhote who, on his return from the Bahamas, brought back with him a number of them. The *Avicultural Magazine* for June, 1904, contained a coloured plate (Goodchild) of this species and also a descriptive article from Mr. Bonhote's pen, from which I cull the following:—

"That the majority of the West Indian species of *Chrysotis* are now becoming so "scarce that their extinction can only be a matter of a few more years ....apart from "its beautiful colouration, has but little to recommend it ....*C leucocephala* differs "from *bahamensis* in having the belly deep crimson and showing red on every tail "feather except the two central ones."

I had the pleasure of seeing Mr. Bonhote's specimens some time ago in his roomy aviaries at Hemel Hempstead, and in the outer flights, exposed to the play of sun and light, they were beautiful indeed. In Mrs. Anningson's Parrot house their resplendent beauty was equally noticeable, and I may say I never saw birds in finer condition than this pair.

Description: General body plumage green, most of the feathers tipped with black, except on the lower abdomen and ventral region; forehead, top of the head and sides of face white, lightly washed with grey above and below the eye; cheeks, throat and upper breast rosy-red, with lighter red margins giving a scaled effect; primaries, coverts and secondaries blue; underside of tail blue; under tail coverts mostly red. Bill whitish-horn; legs and feet greyish flesh colour. Total length about 14 inches, tail 4½.

Hab.: "Fortune Island, Asklin Island and Inagua, Bahamas." (B.M. Cat.).

LE VAILLANT'S AMAZON (*Chrysotis levaillantii*) and BLUE-FRONTED AMAZON (*C. æstiva*). It must suffice to say as regards these two well-known species, that they were absolutely perfect and richly-coloured specimens, the latter being quite a talented and interesting bird.

Hab.: Levaillant's, Mexico and Honduras; Blue-fronted, Southern and Central Brazil and Argentina.

THE FESTIVE AMAZON (*Chrysotis festiva*). This is another beautiful and rare species, and the specimen in question very richly-coloured, tame, and in finest condition. The Hon. and Rev. Canon Dutton has possessed two of this species, neither of which talked, nevertheless he was favourably impressed with them. Rarity and beauty alone command them a place in all collections of Parrots.

Description: The general body plumage is a dark grass-green, slightly lighter on the undersurface; forehead and lores blood-red; band above the eye and chin bright blue; lower back and rump scarlet; primary coverts and outer webs of primaries blue; secondaries green; tail green, with the inner webs greyish, outer webs bluish and the tip yellowish; bill light horn-colour; legs and feet brownish-flesh colour. Total length 14½ inches, of which the tail measures 4⅞.

Hab.: Amazon Valley.

JARDINE'S PARROT (*Pœocephalus gulielmi*). Again I must repeat myself—a beautiful and rare species and, like the other species described in these notes, in perfect condition. This is a native of West Africa, from the Gold Coast to the Congo; it is more uncommon than rare, nevertheless specimens are never numerous and often long intervals go without any appearing at all. It is not to be accounted a talking species, but I have distinct recollection of reading an account of a really talented bird of this species.

Description: Principally rich grass-green; forehead, bend and front edge of wing and thighs yellowish-scarlet; lores black; upper back variegated with brownish-black, with green margins to each feather; rump, yellowish-green; sides of body and under tail-coverts yellowish, with green margins to each feather; quills blackish; bill greenish-black; the base and naked skin round the eye flesh colour; legs and feet blackish grey.

Total length 11 inches, of which the tail measures 3¼.

SENEGAL PARROT (*Pœocephalus senegalus*). This is another very handsome and attractive species, which is fairly numerous at times, but never common on the market, and beyond mentioning that Mrs. Anningson's bird was a very tame, interesting, and intelligent specimen I really ought not to take up space with further description, as in Vol. V. *Bird Notes* there was a coloured plate by Mr. Goodchild and articles by Miss Collier and Dr. Creswell, while in Vol. III. *Bird Notes*, Dr. Hopkinson gave some most interesting particulars of the wild life of the species, from which I will merely quote as follows:—"In Gambia it is very common and constantly to be seen in flocks 20 to 30 strong—they are exceedingly shy and wary—the breeding season is from May to September—the clutch consists of two eggs, which are deposited in a hole in a tree." I will briefly say that the upper surface is bright green; head, sides of the face and throat brownish-black, chest and thighs green; remainder of undersurface yellow, middle of breast and abdomen rich orange; bill blackish-horn; legs and feet dusky-brown.

Total length 9½ inches, tail 2¾.

The other occupants of Mrs. Anningson's Parrot house being fairly well-known species, I must pass in very rapid review.

BLUE MOUNTAIN LORIKEETS (*Trichoglossus novæ hollandiæ*), also known as Swainson's Lorikeet. It is a native of Eastern Australia and has been bred on several occasions in this country. Our esteemed member Miss C. Rosa Little gave an account of her success in breeding this species in Vol. VI. *Bird Notes*.

BENGAL PARRAKEETS (*Palæornis torquata*). Better known as the Ring-necked Parrakeet, a very common species in this country; it is also a beautiful species when in good feather and condition, as were the pair in question; unfortunately owing to them being grossly mismanaged that is not the case with the majority that one comes across. It is a teachable species and on a dry seed diet, supplemented with ripe fruit, nuts and an occasional piece of plain biscuit, grit and cuttlefish regularly, thrives and is hardy and enduring.

BURMAH PARRAKEET (*Palæornis fasciata*). Better known as the Banded Parrakeet, practically the same applies to this species as to *torquata*, save that this species is not quite so common on the market as the former.

ALEXANDRINE PARRAKEET (*Palæornis eupatria*). A true pair represented this well known race, and were most certainly not the least handsome in the collection, the exquisite bloom (similar to that seen on ripe fruit) of their plumage I have never seen surpassed, and the same may be said for the two preceding species. The many local races or species sold as Alexandrines I cannot discuss here, but some reference thereto will be found in Mr. Dewar's interesting notes on "Aviary Birds I have met in their native state" in current volume.

I have purposely made but little mention of food and treatment as I hope Mrs. Anningson will write us an article on same for a near issue.

The aviary containing a fine series of the Peach-faced Lovebird and the Finch aviary, with its varied and interesting occupants, I must leave to our next issue.

I shall hope in a future issue to figure some of the species described in these notes.

(To be continued).

Ornithological Notes during a Midsummer Holiday in the Pennines.

By H. GOODCHILD, M.B.O.U.

(Continued from page 252).

Turning away from the fine mountain valley, I went over the open rounded slopes of Cross Fell towards the top. I was now at two thousand feet altitude, and on a tract where one usually sees few birds. I had, on occasion, seen flocks of Starlings at even a greater height than this, feeding amongst sheep, and had seen an occasional Wheatear, but on this occasion I saw nothing to record until I had passed over the plateau and reached the spring again beyond it. Here for the second time I saw a large party of Swifts and, along with them, House Martins. I watched these birds a long time, as some of them came close enough for me to hear the rush of their wings, as they circled round me and whirled themselves through the air. What I took to be the whistle of a Wading bird of some kind puzzled me for a long time, but I could not see either a bird or a human being to attribute it to, and so I gave it up for a bad job. Two Ravens went over as I retraced my steps, but did not come near me, as they sometimes do.

As I had quitted the deep valley before I had intended to, and had not seen either of the two species of birds I felt most confident of seeing, I returned to it and started at the top, amongst the sodden "peat hags" which form the common source, both for the stream I was to follow (Crowdundle Beck) and the River Tees. I had gone some distance down before I saw that angler's friend, the Dipper, perched on a water-worn and moss-grown boulder in mid-stream, but he kept on his stone and bobbed up and down long enough for me to make a pencil sketch of him in my note book, for which I was grateful to him, as he was the first I had seen. I had just completed my sketch and the entry in my note book, when what I took to be a Pipit flew over and settled on a stone above me. I had looked at so many

Pipits that I nearly passed this bird by, but to make sure I looked at it with the glass and saw, against the sunset sky, the bird I had most wanted to see—the Ring Ouzel. Soon after, this bird was joined by its mate and I saw that the female had insects in her beak. As it was getting late and I was high up in a rocky Gill, I did not attempt to find the nest but noted the occurrence and the locality and then took a level course out of the Gill on to the shoulder of Little Dun Fell. On my way out of the Gill, I disturbed a Fox, which made away with what looked like half a rabbit in its mouth, and quickly disappeared round the nearest corner. I got to the place as quickly as I could, but did not see the Fox again until I had obtained a good view of the gill below me and then I saw Reynard down near the stream, which he galloped through. When he had got about a hundred yards up the opposite (the Cross Fell) side of the valley he stopped and looked down to the stream below him, but seeing no one following him he continued his journey, stopping more and more often as he got higher up the slope and farther away. I watched him with my glass till he was half-a-mile or more away, and saw him flush a rabbit, which flashed out of his way as quickly as it could move. Reaching the top grassy edge of the valley he lay down for a rest, but after a short spell he got up and disappeared over the sky line to the northward.

My homeward journey's observation's concluded with notes of a Cuckoo heard at five minutes to 9 and Willow Wrens and Pipits singing still later.

I had thus seen two of the species I wanted to see (the Dipper and the Ring Ouzel), both of them birds of the mountains, as I knew them, but others had not appeared in sight at all. Thus, the Common Buzzard, although a very local bird (according to my experience) and one that does not favour the Cross Fell district, is still occasionally seen, and Kestrels, which are not rare here, were only seen twice; nor did I see a Sparrow Hawk at all, that I know of, or anything that looked like one. In the spring of 1900 I had seen the Golden Plover, but although I passed the place where I had seen them, I neither saw nor heard them. Tits, which many years ago I remembered as being abundant in winter, were but once seen, and even the Chaffinch, which generally is by far the commonest bird in the cultivated part of Cumberland and Westmorland, did not seem anything like so common as usual. The birds which *did* seem to be in unusual numbers where the Curlews, which were so common that it was noted by the country people. Some species, as the Red Grouse, were still sitting and were less in evidence on that account, and possibly the same might have been said of the Dipper, which in the autumn is a very conspicuous bird as it flies down stream past the trout fisherman. In theory, the birds should be most common directly the broods are able to fly, and that may perhaps account for my considering the abundance or otherwise of certain species on the basis of what I had been used to, during a number of years, in August and September. Such birds as the Black Grouse, which I rarely saw by myself, bred in certain places, though I usually only saw them when they were "put up" by a setter; and some species which I have been told breed near this district, I have never seen at all, to my knowledge.

Nevertheless, with the aid of the binocular, I was able to see a good deal and to make some pleasant memory pictures of the birds I saw during my "SUMMER HOLIDAY IN THE PENNINES."

[We are indebted to Dr. W. Goodchild for the loan of the fine photographs which have illustrated this article.--ED.]

The Birds of India.

By DOUGLAS DEWAR, I.C.S.

[*A Lecture delivered before the Indian Section of the Royal Society of Arts, and reproduced by kind permission of the Author and R.S.A.*]

From the Journal of the Royal Society of Arts.

(*Continued from page* 254.)

AVIAN CRAFTSMANSHIP.

When we turn to avian craftsmanship we find no lack of skilled workmen among our Indian birds. The famous Weaver Bird (*Ploceus baya*) and the less well-known Wren Warbler (*Prinia inornata*) are past masters of the art of Weaving. The Tailor-bird (*Orthotomus sutorius*), as its name implies, has brought the satorial art to a pitch of perfection which is not likely to be excelled by any creature which has no needle other than its beak.

The nests of the various species of Orioles are in their way quite as wonderful as those of the Tailor-bird. Each is a hammock slung by means of strong bresfi (frequently strips of the pliable bark of the mulberry tree) to a forked branch in much the same manner as a prawn net is secured to its wooden framework.

SONG BIRDS.

If there be any characteristic which Indian birds do not possess to a degree it is perhaps the ability to sing. A notion is abroad that the birds of Hindustan cannot sing, that they are able to scream, croak, and make all manner of weird noises; but to sing they know not how. This idea perhaps derives its origin from Charles Kingsley, who wrote: "True melody, it must be remembered, is unknown, at least at present, in the tropics, and peculiar to the races of these temperate climes into which the song birds come in spring." This is, of course, absurd.

Song birds are numerous in India. They do not make the same impression upon us as do our English birds, because, firstly, we are older and, therefore, less impressionable when we first hear them, and, secondly, their song has not those associations which render dear to us the melody of birds in the homeland. Further, there is nothing in India which corresponds to the English spring, when the passion of the earth is at its highest, because there is in India no sad and dismal winter-time, when life is sluggish and feeble.

The excessive joy, the rapture, the ecstasy with which we greet spring in the British Isles is, to a certain extent, a reaction. There suddenly rushes in upon the songless winter a mighty chorus, a tumult of birds, to which we can scarcely fail to attach a fictitious value.

India possesses some song birds which can hold their own in any company. Were the Shama (*Cittocincla macrura*), the Magpie Robin (*Copsychus saularis*), the Fan-tailed Fly-catcher (*Rhipidura albifrontata*), the Orange-headed Ground Thrush (*Geocichla citrina*), the White Eye (*Zosterops palpebrosa*), the Purple Sunbird (*Arachnechthra asiatica*), and the Bhimraj (*Dissemurus paridiseus*), to visit England in the summer, they would supplant, in popular favour, some of our English song birds.

FEARLESSNESS OF INDIAN BIRDS.

Indian birds generally are characterised by their fearlessness of man. It were easy to occupy a whole hour in citing examples of this. A few must suffice. Pied Wagtails (*Motacilla maderaspatensis*), Brown Rock Chats (*Cercomela fusca*), which some believe to be the "Sparrows" of Scripture, Sparrows proper, Mynas (*Acridotheres tristis*), Spotted Owlets (*Athene brama*), Doves (*Turtur cambayensis*), Roller Birds (*Coracias indica*), Tits (*Parus monticola*), Swifts (*Cypselus affinis*), and Robins (*Thamnobia cambaiensis*), have all, at some time or other, elected to share my bungalow with me, building in the walls, under the roof of the verandah, or on a window ledge. Similarly Hoopoes (*Upupa indica*) and Magpie Robins (*Copsychus saularis*) frequently have nested in holes in the mud walls of servants' houses in the compound. Tailor birds (*Orthotomus sutorius*), Sunbirds of two species (*Arachnechthra asiatica* and *A. zeylonica*) and Bulbuls of three (*Molpastes haemorrhous, M. bengalensis, M. intermedius*), have constructed their nests amid the leaves of plants growing in pots on my verandah. In the garden, within thirty or forty yards of the house, the following have brought up their families: Ring Doves (*Turtur risorius*), Paradise Flycatchers *(Terpsiphone paradisi)*, Fan-tailed Flycatchers *(Rhipidura albifrontata)*, House Crows *(Corvus splendens)*, Corbies (*Corvus machrorhynchus*), Tree Pies (*Dendrocitta rufa*), Crow Pheasants (*Centropus sinensis*), Paddy Birds (*Ardeola grayi*), Green Barbets (*Thereiceryx zeylonicus*), Coppersmiths *(Xantholaema haematocephala)*, Woodpeckers (*Brachypterus aurantius*), Green Parrots (*Palaeornis nepalensis* and *P. torquatus*), Shikras (*Astur badius*), Kingfishers (*Halcyon smyrnensis, Alcedo ispida*, and *Ceryle rudis*), Babblers (*Crateropus canorus* and *Argya caudata*), Kites (*Milvus govinda*), Orioles (*Oriolus kundoo, O. melanocephala*), King Crows (*Dicrurus*), and others which I either omitted to notice or fail to recollect.

Verily is the Indian avifauna one of superlatives. Judging from what I have read of the feathered folk that inhabit other parts of the world, it seems to me that the birds of India are more interesting than those of America, Africa or Australia, and infinitely more so than the poverty-stricken collection found in Europe. This opinion, I would add, is shared by Mr. Frank Finn, whose knowledge of the birds of the world is as great as that of any man living.

WEALTH OF SPECIES.

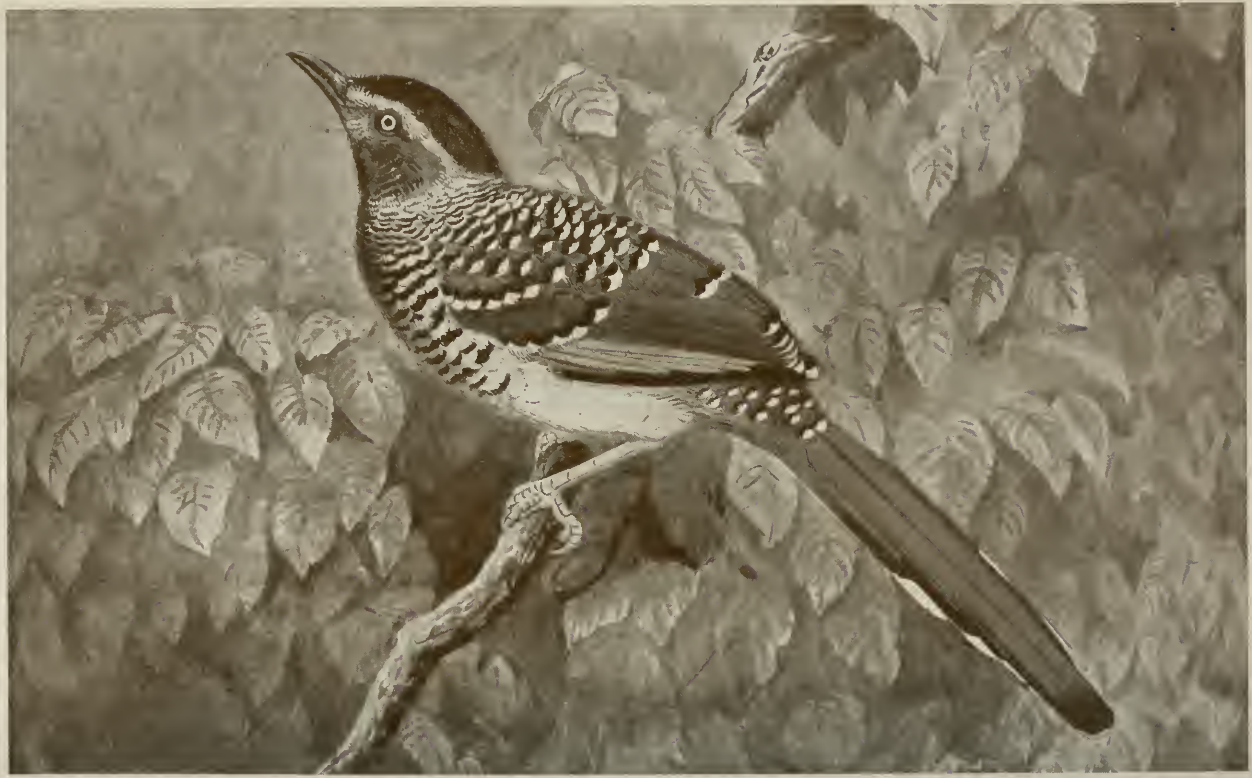
Not the least inportant feature of the avifauna of India is its wealth of species. Oates and Blandford describe over sixteen hundred of these. Among Indian birds are numbered 108 different kinds of Warblers, 56 Woodpeckers, 30 Cuckoos, the same number of Ducks, 28 Starlings, 17 Butcher-birds, 16 Kingfishers and 8 Crows.

The richness of the avifauna is accounted for by the wide differences in the climate of the various provinces of India, and by the fact that India lies in two great divisions of the ornithological world. The Himalayas form part of the Palæartic region, while the the plains are included in the Oriental Region.

The feathered folk that dwell in the mountains and valleys of the Himalayan range differ as widely from the denizens of the plains as do the birds of England from those of Africa. The thirty-mile tonga journey from Rawalpindi to Murree transports the traveller from one bird realm to another. In hot, parched, dusty Pindi the most noticeable birds are the Kites, Sparrows, House Crows, Mynas, Rose-ringed and Alexandrine Paroquets, Indian Hoopoes and Rollers, Bee-eaters, Paddy birds, Tailor birds, Rat-birds, Molpastes Bulbuls, King-crows, Ring Doves, little Brown Doves, Orioles, Spotted Owlets, the Seven Sisters, Koels (*Eudynamis honorata*), Robins, White-breasted Kingfishers, Golden-backed Woodpeckers, Scavenger Vultures and Fantailed and Paradise Flycatchers.

Of all these, the Kites, Orioles, Mynas, Fantailed Flycatchers and Scavenger Vultures are the only ones seen on the well-wooded Murree hills. There, instead of the caw of the House Crow the deeper note of the Corby is heard. The crescendo shriek of the Koel is replaced by the pleasing double-note of the European Cuckoo (*Cuculus canorus*). For the eternal "coo-coo-coo" of the Ring *(Turtur risorius)* and the little Brown Doves, the "kokla kokla" of the Kokla Green Pigeon (*Sphenocercus sphenurus*) is substituted. The chuckles and cackles of the Spotted Owlets no longer cleave the night air, but the monotonous whistle of the Collared Pigmy Owlet (*Glaucidium brodiei*). The boisterous Rose-ringed and Alexandrine Paroquets are replaced by their Slaty-headed cousins (*Palaeornis schisticeps*).

The Golden-backed Woodpecker, the King Crow, the Coppersmith, the Indian Hoopoe, the Grey Partridge *(Francolinus pondicerianus)*, and the Molpastes Bulbuls are supplanted in the Himalayas by the Pied Woodpeckers (*Dendrocopus himalayensis*), the Ashy Drongo (*Dicrurus longicaudatus*), the Great Himalayan Barbet (*Megalaema marshallorum*), the European Hoopoe (*Upupa epops*), the Chukor (*Caccabis chucar*), and the Black Bulbuls



Drawn from life by W. Goodchild.

WHITE-SPOTTED LAUGHING THRUSH.
Ianthocincla ocellata.

(Hypsipetes psaroides). Some birds found in the plains have no Himalayan counterparts, but as a set-off we find many new forms on the mountains, as for example, the various Jays, Laughing Thrushes, Tits, Warblers, the White-capped (*Chimarrhornis leucocephalus*) and the Plumbeous (*Rhyacornis fuliginosus*) Redstarts, the Grosbeaks, the Ouzels, Rock Thrushes, Greenfinches, Pheasants and the Woodcock (*Scolopax rusticula*). But I must refrain from further cataloguing.

How greatly the avifauna of the Himalayas differs from that of the plains is demonstrated by a comparison of the nesting experiences of Colonel Rattray, in the Murree hills, and myself, at Lahore, which may be taken as typical of the plains of the Punjab. In the course of two years' observation Colonel Rattray found nests of 104 species of birds. I did not keep a record of the two years I spent at Lahore, but I think I may safely say that I saw the nests of over 60 species of birds, and of these only seven are included in Colonel Rattray's list, published in the Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society. Nor is this all. The Himalayas have what Jerdon calls a "double fauna." The birds of the eastern portion are common to the Himalayas and to the hilly regions of Assam and Burma, while those found at the western portion of the range include a large number of European species, and are, to a large extent, common to the Himalayas and to Tibet and Northern Asia. Then, again, the Malabar Coast and the Nilgiris possesses not a few species of birds found nowhere else. It is therefore, possible to divide the Indian Empire into four geographical regions, each having a distinctive avifauna. Such, then, are the birds that render India an El Dorado for the naturalist.

Let us now consider them from three different standpoints. Firstly, from that of the bird-lover, of him who watches the feathered folk chiefly, if not solely, on account of the pleasure he derives from so doing. Then from the standpoint of the biologist, who studies the fowls of the air, as he studies other forms of life, in the hope of elucidating some of the mysteries presented by the natural universe. Lastly, from the utilitarian standpoint of the economist, who concerns himself with birds in order to determine how they may be made to serve the best interests of man.

(*To be continued.*)

White-spotted Laughing Thrushes,

(*Ianthocincla ocellata*).

By O. Millsum.

This charming pair of birds came into my possession from our fellow member and my esteemed friend Dr. Walker, and as he intends eventually to publish in another form descriptions of the habits, etc., of the various birds that have passed through his hands, illustrating the text with original drawings, my remarks respecting these birds will be concise and of necessity brief, for Dr. Walker has had a better chance of studying them under more favourable conditions than myself, and therefore his notes will furnish much more information respecting them.

Dr. Walker had had the Thrushes in his possession for some time (and their condition upon reaching me spoke highly of the care and attention devoted upon them) but did not know of what genus or species they were. Upon their arrival the birds were turned into a large cage (really a small aviary) and by their action of digging amongst some dirt placed in a box in a corner of the cage, I judged they were a species of ground birds, and from the likeness of their laugh to that of my Black-throated Laughing Thrush, I formed the opinion they belonged to the tribe of Ground Thrushes. I wrote Dr. Walker telling him my opinion, and my theory was ultimately confirmed by our esteemed Editor, who found them to be White-spotted Laughing Thrushes. As aviary birds none better could be desired, for they are graceful flyers, moving swiftly yet silently with apparently the minimum amount of exertion. Frugal in their wants, partaking freely of seeds, principally hemp, in addition to soft food and very fond of a banana they are easily catered for, their menu being one which would be supplied daily to a mixed collection. And there need be no hesitation in placing them amongst other birds for up to the present they appear of an affable disposition, quiet and contented and in no way disposed to bully their smaller brethren. Indeed it only needs song to make them the perfect bird, and I have not as yet had them long enough to say whether they are good songsters or not. One thing however they do possess towards it and that is a beautiful long clear call note intensely musical and very pleasing to the ear, and their quaint laugh, which is really a laugh, is in no way objectionable. The male bird has also a low cooing call to his mate when absent from her side. Devoted one to another, seldom separate, if it were not for causing confusion they could well be described as Lovebirds, their leisure time being passed apparently in love-making, for that is what it seems to be ; they nestle as close as possible upon the perch and so great is the fervour displayed that at times it is a job for them to keep their equilibrium.

Flying in a large upper room (unheated), in company with Tanagers, Red-throated Thrush, Chopi Starling, Spectacled Thrush, Babblers, Fruitsucker, Toucanette and several other varieties; they have stood the severe weather of the past few weeks with impunity, and are as fit as the proverbial fiddle. Fearless though confiding, bonny in their handsome garb without being gorgeous, full of quaint mannerisms, these birds make a fine addition to our already copious list of Foreign birds. I sincerely hope Dr. Walker will supplement these notes with a more detailed account of their habits and mannerisms.

"Coloration: Lores, front of face, chin and supercilium bright fulvous; forehead, "crown and nape blackish brown; ear coverts chestnut; upper back and sides of neck "fulvous, with broad black subterminal marks on all the feathers, which are also tipped "fulvescent; scapulars, wing coverts, lower back, rump and upper tail coverts reddish "brown, with white spots preceded by black marks; quills tipped with white, the earlier "primaries black on the outer webs becoming progressively ashy then chestnut; middle "tail feathers chestnut tipped white, the others rufous at base, then ashy and finally black "with white tips; centre of throat with blackish narrow rufous edges; side of throat "rufous, barred with black; breast fulvous buff, broadly barred with black; remainder "of lower plumage same as the breast but not barred; the flanks were olivaceous, with a "few paler fulvous bars.

"Bill yellowish, dusky on the ridge and tip; legs dull yellow, iris yellow brown "(Jerdon).

"Length about 13 inches; tail 6·5; wing, 5·2; tarsus 1·8; bill from gape 1·5.

"Distribution. Nepal and Sikhim, at elevations from 8,000 to 10,000 feet.

"Habits, &c. Our knowledge of the nidification of this bird is unsatisfactory. A "nest and two eggs, taken in Sikhim in May, and sent to Hume, are described, the former "as being composed of fern, moss, grass and roots, and the latter as pale blue, one of the "two eggs being spotted with brown at the thicker end. The two eggs measured 1·18 by ·86 "and 1·25 by ·85."—(*Fauna of British India*).

My Aviaries.

By H. L. Sich.

(Continued from page 262).

NESTING NOTES.

By the end of May the aviary* was finished. On the 30th I turned the following birds out: one pair each of Yellow-rumped Mannikins (*Munia flaviprymna*), Ringed Finches (*Stictoptera annulosa*), Masked Grass-finches (*Poephila personata*), odd hens of Ringed, Masked and Cherry Finches (*Aidemosyne modesta*), with two young Bronze-winged Mannikins (*Spermestes cucullata*). On June 1st: one cock and two hen Bush Quail *(Perdicula asiatica)*, one pair of Island Bustard Quail (*Turnix pugnax*). July 7th: a cock Cherry Finch; and July 12th: a pair of Bengalese, which turned out to be two cocks, my usual luck!

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* Vide plate opposite page 261.

Things looked very promising at one time, as every pair laid and incubated, except the Bronze Mannikins and the Bustard Quail. The Bengalese which both sang and made up to any bird that would listen to them (the cock Yellow-rump seemed to take their fancy most) at last got an egg in their nest somehow, but they failed to hatch it through not sitting close enough or other reasons.

The YELLOW-RUMPED MANNIKINS twice hatched out, three and two from two clutches of four eggs each, but on each occasion they pulled the young out of the nest by the wing or scalp, and left them to die in various parts of the aviary, just as they were getting their feathers. The nests were very strong and placed among the stems of the Bamboo, just under the green top, rather large, long shaped, with a small opening near the top, mostly composed of bamboo leaves bound together with grass.

The MASKED GRASS-FINCHES managed to bring one out of a nest which was in a box in the house, but it was ill at the time and died a few days afterwards,owing to another bird which left the nest a day before, July 30th.

AN INTERESTING HYBRID. What this young bird was I could not make out for a long time; it was unlike any bird in the aviary, and quite different from the other which died, this one getting the lion's share of the food and attention. The upper parts were dark biscuit brown; top of the head darker; tail blackish; primaries darker than back; throat and chest light-brown, nearly white on the belly; legs pinkish brown; beak lead colour. A little later description which was taken at the end of September, begins to indicate the parentage of the bird. Beak flesh colour; legs and toes brown; mask beginning to show; black band behind the legs, rather narrower than in the Masked Grass-finch. On the flanks in front of the legs are a few short black bars; on the sides of the breast a few pinkish bands, just a shade darker than the ground colour; the remainder of colouring is much like the first description. It has the song of the Masked Grass-finch. Now, January 11th, I have the bird in a cage and am certain that it is a hybrid CHERRY FINCH × MASKED GRASSFINCH. The beak now has a yellowish tinge down the middle of the upper mandible from the base to the tips runs a narrow band, almost a ridge, mottled-brown in colour, like the Cherry Finch. The shape and size of the beak is otherwise like the Cherry Finch. At the base, on each side of the lower mandible, is a circular orange-yellow patch which does not seem to increase; the bars upon the breast and flanks show the Cherry Finch parentage; the wings remain brownish, blackish at the tips; the two central tail feathers are longer than the rest and show the slender points like the Masked Finch. At a little distance one would not notice that there was any difference between this bird and an ordinary Masked Finch. My Cherry Finch sat, but while I was away the nest and that of the Masked Finch (a second nest), were destroyed so I had no young Cherries to compare the hybrid with. It seems rather curious that the Masked Finch parentage should show so strongly now in a bird which showed hardly any when leaving the nest, considering that young Masked Finches at the same stage are coloured nearly like their parents.

On the evening of July 31st, another young bird left the Masked Finches' nest. This is quite differently coloured from the first, as follows: bill horn-brown; back, sides, throat and breast coloured like the adult Masked Finch, with the black band by the legs; under tail coverts and vent look white; rump and upper half of tail feathers white; legs flesh colour. This bird died upon August 2nd. I did not note if the "mask" showed or not. This bird I think must have been a pure bred Masked Finch.

THE RINGED FINCHES were the real success. After incubating two nests to hatching point and deserting two others at an earlier period, I pulled all the nests out of the tree, bought some more trees and planted them as close together as they would go, stopped up all my peep holes and left that part of my aviary quite alone. After about eighteen days, in the middle of August, I heard the sound of young birds being fed on several occasions, but this suddenly seemed to stop. On Sept. 7th, as I was going away for a fortnight on the 9th I went to see how matters stood. What I thought was that the nest was empty. Three young Ringed Finches flew out from a nest behind the empty one. One young bird was rather more forward than the other two, which were nearly equal. I was astonished to see them fly half way round the aviary, avoiding every obstacle as though they had been out before and knew their way about; I am of the opinion that this was not their first fly. The two smaller ones more or less fell into a bush; I was afraid that one of them would be lost and die of cold in the night, but the parents very quickly and quietly got them back again; I could not find them and gave up the search. During the next two days I only saw one bird at a time, but had the satisfaction of seeing one of the younger ones once. I left Bepton hoping on my return to find the three young birds safe. When I returned I was very pleased to find not only three young Ringed Finches but five, they were evidently all from the same nest. The white on the side of the head was still rather dusky, the second band was nearly complete in one, and quite invisible in another, but when preening its breast the feathers seemed to be black at the base. In the others the band was thickest in the centre, narrowing off at the sides and finally disappearing. By November they were coloured like their parents. Judging by their bands they are four cocks and one hen, the latter was probably the one on which the band was last to appear.

During the summer I could always tell the cock from the two hens, he seemed slimmer and had a longer tail. It was the cock alone who built the first nest in some branches in the house, but the hen would have nothing to do with it. The Masked Finches' nest was also begun at any rate by the cock bird.

Of the QUAILS *P. asiatica* sat on five eggs during October, but I addled them, knowing that it was impossible to get live insect food enough to bring them up at that time of the year.

Three seems to be the complement of eggs, but as there were two hens, both of them may have been laying.

In the slip aviary I had three PEKIN NIGHTINGALES and a pair of *Coturnix pectoralis*, none of them made any attempt to nest.

CHINESE PAINTED QUAIL (*Excalfactoria chinensis*). On July 1st, 1903, a pair of these delightful little birds arrived, they were aviary bred and quite tame. They did not waste any time, for on July the 8th I discovered three eggs laid in a slight hollow between a thin tuft of sedge and some coarse grass. By the 13th the grass had grown taller, nearly hiding the eggs, but I could see five eggs, and there was another laid some way off, which I took for a specimen.

On the 23rd the grass had grown over and the nest was completely hidden. I had not seen the hen for nearly a week, but cannot tell when incubation began, presumably on the 13th with the eighth egg, that is, supposing an egg was laid every day, as on August the 5th she brought out six chicks and left one addled egg behind.

The young were very dark brown above, looking quite black, with raw sienna coloured beaks and legs; the under parts were lighter. They were very active and tame, one came running up and caught a piece of yolk of egg which I was throwing to them.

I fed them on maw seed, Indian millet and cut up mealworms, which caused I feel sure the terrible tragedies which followed, and also the change of diet which saved the lives of the remaining two, which reached maturity safely, and turned out to be two hens.

On Aug. 6th one chick was drowned in the drinking dish in 7½ in. of water, for this I substituted six penny glass bowls.* On the 8th another died, it seemed to be very weak on the evening before. On the 11th a third young died; I found its crop full of white and Indian millet and maw seed, its intestines seemed inflamed in places so I stopped the maw seed, white millet and mealworms, giving them living ant pupæ and Indian millet alone. It was hard work collecting the pupæ, because most of the larger ones, (the Queens I suppose), had emerged, and the little Quails were afraid of the ants; these had to be picked out first, and the amount I had taken an hour to collect was eaten in about five minutes. Besides that a Green Woodpeeker observing that I was making his work easier for him, flew down to the ants' nests as soon as I was at a safe distance and finished off all that was left.

The chick which died on the 11th showed the scapularies, primaries, secondaries, tail, first and second upper and first wing coverts developing.

On the 14th a fourth young one died during the morning, it was a very wet day. This bird looked healthy and was very nearly fledged.

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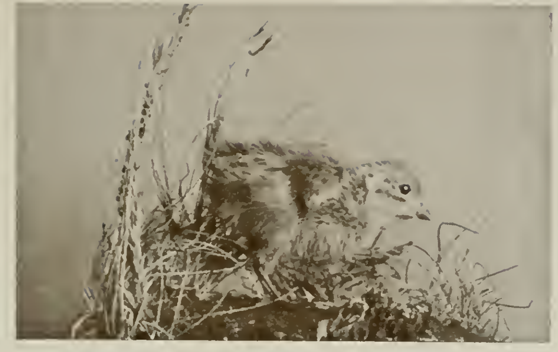
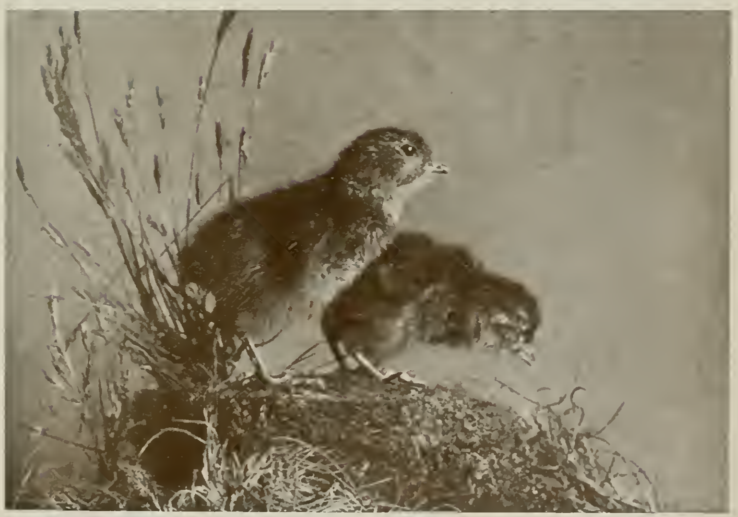
* Photographic developing dishes (shallow) make excellent water dishes for outdoor aviaries.



RAIN QUAIL CHICK.
Coturnix coromandelica.



Photos by E. O. Page.

CHINESE PAINTED QUAIL CHICKS.
Excalfactoria chinensis.

The parent birds never seemed to trouble themselves about a few stray chicks, two or three seemed to content them.

By Sept. 7th the two young were nearly full grown, not being quite as large as the old cock bird. The two young figured in this issue died, one upon the 6th, and the other on the morning of the 8th was found dead.

The hen started laying again on August 25th, and sat until the eggs became addled, although one egg was cracked in a circle by the chick inside.

Rain Quail (*Coturnix coromandelica*). Finding that my hen Rain Quail always left her eggs after a few days of incubation, probably owing to the presence of the cock bird, I bought a bantam hen and put the clutch of eggs, seven in number, under her on August 7th, 1904.

On the morning of the 23rd, before 10 a.m., two chicks were hatched, but one had completely disappeared, only leaving the egg shell behind. This makes the period of incubation only 15 days and some odd hours.

The next morning, the 14th, at about the same hour I found the remaining chick dead in a very draughty passage between the nesting place and the outside run.

It seemed to have died from cold sometime during the night; its age cannot be greater than twenty-four hours. None of the other eggs hatched.

This is written from notes taken at the time.

I may as well add, that previously a friend gave me a bantam, under which I placed four Rain Quail eggs, these were more than six weeks old, but I do not remember now how much older. None of these hatched, each contained a more or less developed bird; the last one died about three or four days before hatching. This amply demonstrates that the germ can live for at least six weeks without incubation.

Editorial.

AN INTERESTING HYBRID. St. Helena Seedeater × Canary. As already noted in this Journal (*page* 46 *of current vol.*) Captain J. S. Reeve has reared this uncommon cross in his aviary, unfortunately the bird recently died and has been set up by Rowland Ward, Ltd.; Captain Reeve kindly instructing them to send it on to me for inspection. It is a handsome hybrid, in shape it is a typical Canary, and its plumage has been but little modified by its mixed parentage, it is more by indications than by actual similarity, that the Seedeater parentage is recognised. The upper surface on which most of the traces of the Seedeater are to be found is much browner than is the case with its male parent; these however are not the only traces, others are to be found in the deeper yellow bases (almost obscured) of the feathers of the undersurface, nape, mantle and lower back, which portions are pale yellow, almost buff. The markings of the plumage are very regular and equal, thus adding to the handsome appearance of the bird. Instead of giving a minute description of the plumage here, I purpose figuring the bird in a near issue and giving the description then.

AN ABNORMAL PLUMAGED OX OR BUFFALO WEAVER. Our esteemed member, Mr. O. Millsum, has received via the Continent, a most interesting specimen which unfortunately arrived dead. The size of this species is very variable and this specimen is rather small; space only permits me in this issue to say that instead of an almost entirely black plumage, it is about equally mottled black and white, with a yellow beak. The eyes were too far gone when it arrived for me to be quite certain of their colour, but I am of the opinion that they were black. Further remarks must be left till next issue when I shall hope to figure this unique specimen.

ERRATUM. Page 264, title of last par., for Mexican Trogon read Resplendent Trogon.

THE NOTES ON THE CLARIONET BIRD AND PENDULINE TITS are again crowded out. This suggested new feature of our Magazine has been perforce shelved on several occasions; however in our next issue, the first of a new vol., it can be very fittingly inaugurated.

Correspondence.

FEEDING WILD BIRDS.

SIR,—Perhaps some of the readers of *Bird Notes* may like to hear of a successful plan for baffling Sparrows in their rude attempts to take more than their share of the food primarily intended for song and other favourite birds, and which was adopted from a paragraph in the *Daily Mail.*

When the sudden fall of snow came in December last, covering the ground some two or three inches on gardens and walks, and out of doors feeding became a necessity, the difficulty of preventing the ubiquitous and masterful sparrow not only from consuming all food but also from driving away the guests for whom it was intended, presented itself with its usual force, and the suggested method of how to meet it determined upon.

A roughly made small deal table was quickly put together with four short light pieces of wood for legs and placed on the snow beneath the window of dwelling house, legs uppermost, the latter being twice wound round with black thread embracing the sides and ends of table and allowing about three inches of space between the two rounds of thread as well as between the lower round and the board where the food was scattered. This plan proved very successful, several Sparrows hovered daily round and near the table, but not one ventured to cross the line of thread although other birds of all kinds came down to the food showing little or no fear two or three times in the day. A Great Tit was especially observed in constant attendance, with Robins, Chaffinches, Blackbirds, Starlings, etc.

It would be interesting to know if other readers have tried the above method and with what success.

Are not threads used to guard fruit and seed from the attacks of *all* birds, and not only of Sparrows? Hon. Mrs. S. Ward.

Among the Bush Birds.*

By "L. B. J."

(*Continued from page* 237).

"Just before twilight the Parrots flock to the waterholes, and it is comparatively easy to get a shot at them as they come down to drink. The screams of a winged Parrot will attract scores of its companions to the immediate neighbourhood. Where a moment back there were only two or three, now they skim from branch to branch, called by curiosity as to their comrade's mishap, and it is remarkable what tenacity of life these birds possess. The other evening I noticed a couple of Hawks wheeling high overhead, and how to get a chance at the winged pirates puzzled me not a little. Finally I hit upon the expedient of hanging a dead Parrot in the boughs of a jam sapling; and leaving it there I walked some distance from the spot following the windings of a narrow creek. Having reared their shy broods, most of the Wild Ducks have departed for the deep solitary pools of the river, but occasionally one may still be flushed from the thick weeds which fringe the banks of the scanty stream. One got up before me quite suddenly. There was no possibility of a snap shot, a cluster of wattle trees interposed between us, and so the opportunity was lost . . . . . A month or two ago Ibis were fairly plentiful in these parts, but they are merely migratory, and now you could walk all day long and never see a sign of one. This bird is the Sacred Ibis of the Egyptians Yearly great flocks travel as methodically as a party of Cook's tourists from the banks of the mighty Nile South-East to ‘India's coral strand,’ thence proceeding to the North-Western territories of Australia, passing South in large numbers about the month of October. In the more remote parts of the bush the Black Cockatoo may be found, but he is not easy to approach. He has rather a plaintive call, not altogether dissimilar to the whistle of a Curlew or Stone Plover. The smaller or Silver-crested Cockatoo I have only noticed once, but I am told he is not infrequently to be seen during the summer months. As I retraced my steps in the direction of my hawk-trap, three squeekers flapped heavily from the sheltering boughs of a spreading gum tree, and winged away with harsh cries. In point of size, they are as large as the Curlew, and quite as excellent eating, somewhat resembling a Wild Duck in flavour. If one is shot, its mate may generally be secured likewise, as it will linger in the vicinity crying, out with a peculiar insistence. Leaving them to go nestwards in peace, for I had no wish to fire for fear of alarming the Hawks should they still be in the neighbourhood. I wound my way along the foot of the darkening hills, through prickly undergrowth, past grotesque blackboys, their spiky-tops a tremble in the breeze, with ever a soft rustling of leaves overhead and the liquid notes of a Magpie sounding from somewhere among the sombre shadows and so until I came to the slender jam sapling with my Parrot hanging forlornly in the branches. The Hawks were there sure enough; one was too wary for me, and swooped off, his easy graceful flight carrying him out of sight in a moment. The other perched at the summit of a dead skeleton-like tree, where he sat sharply defined against the pale opalescent sky, his white breast distinctly visible—a very tempting mark. Doubtless his keen eyes watched my every movement with a contemptuous disregard. Being a longish shot, I gave him the choke-bore. There came a flutter, a heavy fall and a feather or two floating in the still air. Although hit in the breast, he was full of fight. A single pellet, glancing aside, had pierced the left wing near the apex. He tore

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* Sent by Mr. J, Hume.

"savagely at the wound, and his eyes with the filmy covering of the bird of prey were as "wicked as those of a cornered snake. It was some seconds before I could get a hold of his "throat, and even then his cruel curved talons scored my hands with most unpleasant "vigour. The neck of a wounded bird is broken with a single swift jerk easy enough to all "appearance, but requiring a certain knack in the accomplishment. It was dark by the "time I turned for home, and the mournful silence was disturbed only by the distant "monotonous hooting of a More-pork. The stars crept slowly out, and a slim moon hung "just above a line of dusky hills. In the neighbourhood of the Avon valley, bird-life is "not superabundant, and the few examples I have mentioned here do not by any means "constitute a tithe of the different varieties which may be observed in their native haunts "by those who have eyes to see and patience to walk with that circumspection which is the "due demanded by all wild denizens of wood and field."

—From the *Western Mail*, Perth, W. Australia, Dec. 25th, 1907.

An Australian Settler in New Zealand.

The following cutting, which is taken from *The Field* of December 19th ult. will doubtless prove of interest to many readers.—Ed

"FIFTY THREE YEARS ago a little olive, grey, and yellow bird with white 'spectacles,' which is now quite common in New Zealand, was unknown to either Europeans or Maories. In the winter of 1856 the lighthouse keeper on Dog Island, in Foveaux Strait, which separates Stewart Island from the South Island of New Zealand, found one morning in the gallery of the lighthouse towers scores of these birds lying dead. They had arrived in the night, or early in the morning before the lights were extinguished, and had dashed against the lantern. They had come from Australia, and, flying day and night without finding a resting place, had crossed 1,000 miles of ocean before sighting New Zealand's shores.

Members of the flock that survived the dangers of the voyage settled in the southern part of New Zealand, and ever since have occupied an honourable place in New Zealand's avifauna. For several years these little birds remained in the southern district of the dominion, but gradually spreads toward the north, until they were to be found in all parts of the South Island.

Although they had involuntarily crossed 1,000 miles of water in the Tasman Sea, they hesitated before crossing twenty or thirty miles of water in Cook Strait, which separates the South Island from the North. At first they crossed in small numbers, again retired to the South, and eventually advanced in force. Their arrival was recorded simultaneously by a Maori mailman at Waikanae, a small coastal village in Wellington province, and by Sir Walter Buller, author of "A History of the Birds of New Zealand," in Wellington City. They flocked through the Northern provinces to Wanganui, Taranaki, Hawke's Bay, Poverty Bay, and Auckland, making friends with the native resident birds, and also with those which had been imported from England, wandering to the remotest outskirts of the dominion in the Chatham, Auckland, the Snares, and Campbell Islands.

New Zealanders have given this little bird a number of popular names. It is the 'White-eye.' 'Silver-eye,' 'Ring-eye,' 'Wax-eye,' the 'Blight-bird,' and the "Winter Migrant.' The Maoris call it 'Tau-hou,' which means 'stranger,' and scientists know it in New Zealand, as well as in Australia, as *Zosterops* (*i.e.*, Girdle-eye) *cœrulescens*. The genus *Zosterops* ranges over a large part of the world, commencing in Africa south of the Sahara, and extending to Madagascar, the Indian Peninsula, Ceylon, the Burmese countries, the whole of China, Japan, Formosa, the Malayan Peninsula and Islands, New Guinea, the Islands of the Pacific, and Australia and New Zealand. There are no fewer than eighty-five species in the genus, and one of these (*cœrulescens*) is the species which belongs to Australia, and which, following a remarkable and mysterious impulse has settled in New Zealand.

When New Zealand Colonists, in the 'early days,' as they like to call them, decided the question whether the 'White-eye' was indigenous or a visitor from some distant country, they agreed that it should be given a welcome, partly because it did not shun civilization like some of the native birds, and partly because its presence gave an additional charm to the sylvan scenes wherein it was to be found. Before long they began to regard it as a nuisance. Invading their orchards, though insectivorous, it pecked the plums, cherries, and apples unwarrantably. Its romantic arrival was regarded as a curse rather than a blessing. Presently, however, the landowners changed their opinion. Their apple trees were attacked by American blight (*Schizoneura lanigera*), and the 'White-eye' dealt with this pest so thoroughly and effectively that it completely cleared many orchards and left them clean and sweet. Since then it has been treated almost with affection. In recognition of its excellent work in this direction it is now known as the "Blight-bird."

At one time public feeling was so strong against it that a crusade was organised for its destruction: but now it is allowed to live without molestation. Although not protected by law in New Zealand, it is not rare. Its greatest enemies are the Maoris, whose custom was to preserve large numbers of 'White-eyes' in fat every year as a supply of food. The bird is so small that the Maoris give it no further preparation than plucking the feathers. Head, bones, feet and all were eaten. It is nevertheless now firmly established as a New Zealand bird, and is both ornamental and useful. Most New Zealanders gladly allow it such fruit as it takes in return for its pleasant company and for the quantity of blight that it destroys.

Christchurch, N.Z. J. DRUMMOND."

The Month's Arrivals.

I was interested to see half-a-dozen Green Jays at Mr. De Von's, which arrived about 18th January. The first two that reached this country were sent me for inspection by Mr. Cross, of Liverpool, but I think Mr. De Von has handled nearly all those that have been imported subsequently. The sexual differences of this species have not, I think, been quite accurately defined as yet. Mr. De Von himself thinks those with a narrow white-frontal band are hens. The majority of those imported are of this type and have the white band about a quarter of an inch in width. There was one bird in this consignment which had the frontal stripe fully one half-inch in width, which, if this distinction is correct, should be a cock.

When a dealer gives an unbiassed opinion I am always inclined to give due weight to it, because he sees many things at a glance which we only see dimly, and I think it quite possible that this may be a correct method of sexing the species, especially as an aviarist, who is convinced he has a true pair, states that his hen has a narrow frontal band tinged with carmine. At the same time my own experience has not confirmed the observation. One of the first two Jays I obtained had the band tinged with carmine but, after the moult, this colour disappeared and, from their manners, their similar voices, and the fact that both uttered what can only be called a kind of song, I came to the conclusion that both were cocks and I have for some time past been on the look out for a hen. In this last consignment I noticed one bird distinctly smaller than the rest, with a smaller beak, a smaller (and paler) eye and in particular with quite a different note. Mr. De Von obliged me by sending it down for closer examination. I find that its measurements are from one-eighth to one-sixth smaller than any of my birds, that the area of blue beneath the eye is smaller, that its wings are green (not blue-green) and its breast deep orange (not chrome). I think it probable therefore that this is a true *Xanthura luxuosa*, whereas the others are probably *X. peruviana*. If, however, these three birds are all of the same species, then this bird is almost certainly a hen of *X. luxuosa*. It is worth noting that the females of the Blue-bearded and Pileated Jays are very unlike the males both in size and in voice.

Mr. De Von has also imported some Guans, namely one Red-tailed Guan and four o another species which I could not identify. The Guans are Gallinaceous birds: habitat South America. They remind one somewhat of the Curassows, but lack the striking plumage and conspicuous crests of the latter: they are also much smaller, the Red-tailed being about the size of a Hen Pheasant. The Zoological Society have possessed various Guans for a long series of years, but I believe they have never shown any disposition to breed.

W. E. T.

At Mr. Hamlyn's I recently saw some of the Indian consignment, alluded to in our last issue, including a Concave-casqued Hornbill—a fine specimen but minus a tail—several Dhyals and a Wandering Tree-Pie.

I also noticed a nice consignment of about a score of Superb Tanagers and a Hangnest which was new to me. The identification of Hangnests is however the most difficult of problems. There are so many species, so closely related and differing so markedly in their immature from their adult plumage. For instance, I once had a pair of *Cassicus affinis*, but, before I could identify them, I had to look up particulars of no less than five species all of which were black with a crimson rump. W. E. T.

We must not overlook the importation of *Agapornis nigrigenis* which has caused so much comment among aviculturists recently—more perhaps than this by no means remarkable little Lovebird is fairly entitled to. On 11th January *A. nigrigenis* were offered at £5 a pair but, by the end of the week, they could be bought for £2 10s. so rapid was the slump in the market, due to the fact that apparently every one of the seven "operators" had purchased with the intention of forming a "corner," but, finding he was being undersold, let his birds go at any price he could obtain. In connection with the importation of this species the "amateur dealer" has come somewhat prominently into notice and several correspondents have expressed the view that we have a new factor in the bird-trade. I must say that I do not share this view. In the first place I think our "amateur dealers" will find, when they have a little more experience, how exceedingly uncertain a speculation is the importation of rare birds. For instance, of a recent consignment of six rarities. one was sold for a low price, four died on the dealer's hands and one is now languishing in a remote corner of a London bird-shop without a bidder. Then again in every consignment there are a certain number of birds which cannot possibly live. The professional dealer distributes these impartially among his clients up to the limit to which he thinks the latter will submit; but the "amateur dealer" can only give these away or write them off as a dead loss, for, should he sell them, he has committed the one sin that is beyond forgiveness among aviculturists of the same standing, namely that of sending out a waster as a sound bird. Also I think the astute German dealer will soon raise his prices if he finds any considerable demand from this country. There has been a little mystery about the source of some recent importations which has somewhat amused me because some of us were procuring birds from Hamburg before some of our "amateur dealers" ever became aviculturists.

As to the price of *A. nigrigenis*, knowing what the importers gave, I may say that I think £3 a pair would be a fair retail price, and those who purchase at this figure will possibly have as good a speculation before them as those who purchased Budgerigars in the early days. For I quite think that this species will be much more easily bred than might be inferred from Mr. Phillipps' experience. One correspondent tells me that his birds are pairing and another that he already has eggs.

To my mind the only interesting thing about *A. nigrigenis* is the fact that at last Rhodesia has produced something! Its sandy soil has absorbed millions of English capital, hitherto without return. At length we have a tangible product and it is—an insignificant little Lovebird! W. E. T.

Our esteemed members, Messrs. H. Robbins and O. Millsum, have both received specimens of the Yellow-browed Bunting, and the last named has also acquired Chopi Starling, Mexican Thrush (not yet identified), and a partial Albino Buffalo Weaver (see Editorial notes), which unfortunately arrived dead—all *viâ* the Continent. W. T. P.

Post Mortem Reports.

(*Vide Rules*).

For replies by post, a fee of 2/6 *must be sent;* this regulation will not be broken under any conditions.

COCK SHAMA. (W. Bamford.) Cause of death enlarged liver, which was undergoing fatty degeneration. A small round worm, about 2½ in. in length, was found in the peritoneal cavity. I am of the opinion it had nothing to do with the bird's death.

COCK BULLFINCH. (H. W. Robbins.) Cause of death, acute pneumonia.

YOUNG COCK NONPARIEL. (Dr. J. Easton Scott.) Cause of death, acute enteritis and enlargement of liver. There was a minute worm in the peritoneal cavity. The kidneys were undergoing fatty degeneration. Freshly imported birds very often suffer in this way. It is thought to be infectious, but from my observations this is negatived. Healthy British birds when kept in contact with the diseased birds do not contract the disease.

COCK SHAMA. (Mrs. E. Warren Vernon.) Cause of death, pneumonia. The bird must have been ill sometime as the body was very emaciated and the liver seemed to have undergone atropy.

BLACK-THROATED CARDINAL. (H. V. Johnson.) Cause of death, septic fever of Drs. Clarke and Creswell. You will no doubt lose others. It is a most deadly complaint in an aviary or bird room. The liver end spleen were crammed with yellowish nodular looking masses.

RED-FACED LOVE-BIRD. (Mrs. Croysdale.) The cause of death was pneumonia. The bird was a hen.

Answered by post:

T. Miller. H. W. Mathias.

HENRY GRAY, M.R.C.V.S.

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MARCH, 1908.

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ANNINGSON, Mrs., Walt-ham-sal, Barton Road, Cambridge. (Dec , 1901).

ARONSTEIN, MARKS, 30, Grand Parade, Cork. (March, 1906).

BAKER, Miss M. E., Granite House, Mount Sorrell, Loughborough. (Sept., 1902).

BAMFORD, WM., The Coppice, Werneath, Oldham. (June, 1904).

BARRON, FRANK, Colwick Hall Hotel, Nottingham. (Nov., 1906).

BLISS, H. E., Salisbury House, Folkestone. (Jan., 1903).

BOUSFIELD, Miss M., The Rest, Richmond Park Road, Bournemouth. (Jan., 1908).

BOYD, HAROLD, Barton House, Didsbury, Manchester. (April, 1903).

BRANNEKER, BARON DE, 8, Passage Bonado, à Pau, Basses Pyrenees, France. (Feb., 1908).

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BROMET, Mrs. HENRY, Highfield, Tadcaster. (Nov., 1903).

BROMWICH, Miss VERA, Pegsden House, near Hitchin, Herts. (Mar., 1907).

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BUSTEED, Miss, 32, Charleville Mansions, West Kensington. (Sept., 1903).

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CAMPS, H. T. T., F.Z.S., Linden House, Haddenham, Isle of Ely. (Orig. Mem.)

CAPERN, F., Avenue House, Cotham Park, Bristol. (Oct., 1907).

CASTLE-SLOANE, C., F.Z.S., Oat Hall, near Crawley, Sussex. (Nov., 1902).

CATTLE, C. A., Thurston, Bury St. Edmunds. (April, 1903).

CHAPLIN, E. W., The Firs, Great Anwell, Herts. (Sept., 1903).

CLIFTON, Lord, Cobham Hall, Gravesend. (Oct., 1905).

CONWAY-GORDON, Miss V., Longley House, Rochester. (Oct., 1906).

COWPER-COOPER, Mrs., 36, South Parade, Southsea. (Nov., 1907).

CRESSWELL, ALFRED HENRY, L.S.A., York Villa, Cinderford, R.S.O., Gloucestershire. (July, 1903).

CRONKSHAW, J., 100, Arden Terrace, Accrington. (Nov., 1901).

CURTIS, Miss, Kearsney, Salthorp House, Wroughton, Swindon. (March, 1904).

CUMMINGS, ALEX., University House, The Promenade, Cheltenham. (Feb., 1905).

CUSHNY, CHARLES, c/o Messrs. Neish, Howell and Haldane, 47, Watling Street, Queen Victoria Street, E.C. (Orig. Mem.)

Day, E. C., 238, Cromwell Road, Peterborough. (June, 1903).

Dennis, Mrs. Harold, The Beeches, Fay Gate, Sussex. (Jan., 1904).

Dewar, D., Indian Civil Service, Lahore, India. (June, 1907).

Dewar, J. F., 2, St. Patrick's Square, Edinburgh. (Orig. Mem.)

De Yarburgh-Bateson, The Hon. Lilla, Heslington, York. (June, 1903).

Dobbie, J., Waverley Works, Leith, N.B. (April, 1906).

Drummond, Miss, Mains of Megginch, Errol, N.B. (Nov., 1907).

Dunleath, The Lady, Ballywalter Park, Ballywalter, co. Down. (Nov., 1901).

Dunn, Lady Ellen, Fair View, Riverside, Taplow. (Nov., 1907).

Dutton, The Hon. and Rev. Canon, Bibury, Fairford. (May, 1906).

Ebrill, Wm., 14, Victoria Terrace, Limerick. (April, 1906).

Fasey, William R., The Oaks, Holly Bush Hill, Snaresbrook. (Jan., 1903).

Fillmer, H. R., 52, Ship Street, Brighton. (Orig. Mem.)

Finn, Frank, B.A., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U., 29, Chalcot Crescent, Primrose Hill, N.W. (Sept., 1903).

Foster, William Hill, 164, Portland Street, Southport. (Nov., 1901).

Galloway, Mrs. E., 50, Clarendon Road, Bedford. (Jan., 1908).

Galloway, P. F. M., Durban, St. Peter's Avenue, Caversham, Reading. (Nov., 1907).

Gerrard, John, M.B.O.U., Worsley, Manchester. (June, 1905).

Gibbons, Miss M., Boddington Manor, Cheltenham. (Dec., 1904).

Goodchild, H., M.B.O.U., 66, Gloucester Road, Regent's Park, N.W. (July, 1903).

Gorringe, The Rev. Reginald E. P., Maxey Vicarage, Market Deeping, Northants. (Dec., 1902).

Gourlay, H., Kempshott Park, Basingstoke. (Nov., 1907).

Gray, H., M.R.C.V.S., 23, Upper Phillimore Place, W. (May, 1906).

Hall, J., 162, Evering Road, Upper Clapton, N.E. (March, 1907).

Harper, E. W., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U., 55, Waterloo Road, Bedford. (Oct., 1907).

Harrison, J. H., Frankfort House, 6, Central Beach, Lytham. (Dec., 1901).

Hartley, Mrs. E. A., St. Helen's Lodge, Hastings. (Sept., 1907.)

Hatcher, J. F., 168, Upper Thames Street, E.C. (June, 1903).

Hawkins, L. W., Estrilda, New Clive Road, West Dulwich. (Orig. Mem.)

Healey, Mrs., 12, Rossetti Gardens Mansions, Cheyne Walk, S.W. (Feb., 1903).

Henstock, J. H., Market Place, Ashbourne, Derby. (March, 1907).

Hetley. Dr. Henry, Beaufort House, 114, Church Road, Norwood, S.E. (Jan., 1908).

Hodgkin, Mrs. B. W., 6, Priory Terrace, Kew, London. (Feb., 1908).

Hollins, Miss, Greyfriars, Preston, Lancashire. (Feb., 1906).

Hollins, J. T., 7, Lower Arcade, Harrogate. (May, 1903).

HOPKINSON, EMILUS, M.A., M.B. Oxon., D.S.O., Bathurst, Gambia, West Africa. (Oct., 1901).

HORTON, L. W., Hill House, Compton, Wolverhampton. (Sept., 1902).

HOSFORD, S. R., Highfield Avenue, College Road, Cork. (Nov., 1906).

HOULTON, CHARLES, Laburnum House, Denton's Green, St. Helen's, Lancs. (Nov., 1901).

HOWE, FRANK, 65, Thomas Street, Wellingborough, Northamptonshire. (Feb., 1902).

HOWE, Mrs. JAMES, Moss Lodge, Ashton-under-Lyne, Lancs. (July, 1903).

HUBBARD, Mrs. D. L., Casa Sta. Monica, Bordighera, Italy. (Jan., 1905).

HUME, JAMES, Hepscott, Morpeth. (June, 1903).

HUMPHRYS, RUSSELL, Southborough, Bickley. (July, 1902).

JARDINE, Miss E. L., 15, Baskerville Road, Wandsworth Common, London, S.W. (Dec., 1902).

JEFFS, W., Pensarn Villas, Victoria Road, Darlaston. (Oct., 1904.)

LAMB, E. J., 10, Knight's Park, Kingston. (May, 1906).

LANE, Miss, The Deanery, Rochester. (April, 1905).

LITTLE, Miss C. ROSA, Baronshalt, The Barons, East Twickenham. (Nov., 1902).

MACARTHUR, J., 6, Councillor Street, Camberwell New Road, London, S.E. (Sept., 1907).

MCWILLIAM, Miss, 5, Den Crescent, Teignmouth, S. Devon. (Nov., 1907).

MASTER, G., M.B., B.C., 86, Guildhall Street, Bury St. Edmunds. (Nov., 1903).

MELLOR, Mrs., Fair Lawn, Lytham, Lancs. (July, 1904).

MILLER, Mrs. K. LESLIE, 27, Belgrave Road, S.W. (Jan., 1904).

MILLER, TINNISWOOD, 27, Belgrave Road, London, S.W. (Sept., 1907).

MILLSUM, O., Regent Street, Swindon, Wilts. (July, 1907).

MORGAN, Miss H. L., 108, Craiglea Drive, Edinburgh, N.B. (March, 1907).

MORTIMER, Mrs., Wigmore, Holmwood, Surrey. (Orig. Mem.)

MURRAY, IVAN D., Toddington Park, Dunstable, Beds. (June, 1906).

MCDONAGH, J. E. R., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., F.Z.S., F.L.S., Kettlewell, Swanley, Kent. (Jan., 1903).

MCLAREN, The Hon. Mrs. MORRISON, Kepwick Park, Northallerton, Yorks. (Nov., 1906).

MCMATH, WM., M.B., 6, Camden Place, Cork. (Jan., 1904).

NEWBOULD, T., Avoca, Linthorpe, Middlesborough. (Dec, 1902).

NEWMAN, T. H., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U., Newlands, Harrowdene Road, Wembley, Middlesex. (July, 1903).

OAKEY, W., 34, High Street, Leicester. (Orig. Mem.)

OBERHOLSER, HARRY C., 1349, Harvard Street, Washington, D.C., U.S.A. (Dec., 1903).

O'REILLY, NICHOLAS S., 9, Royal Crescent, Ramsgate, Kent. (Orig. Mem.)

Page, W. T., F.Z.S., 6, Rylett Crescent, Shepherd's Bush, W. (May, 1905).
Partridge, Mrs., Loxia, Richmond Road, Worthing. (Dec., 1905).
Payne, H., The Little Zoo., Lyncombe Hill, Bath. (May, 1907).
Perkins, E., Chester Hill, Woodchester, Gloucestershire. (Feb., 1903).
Perreau, Capt. G. F., 2/4 Gurkha Rifles, Bakloh, Punjab, India. (Dec., 1903).
Perring, C. S. R., Melie House, Waldegrave Road, Teddington. (Oct.. 1902).
Pickard, H. K., 10, Sandwell Crescent, W. Hampstead, N.W. (Oct., 1901).
Pickles, W. H., Stoneyhurst, Morecambe, Lancs. (May, 1904).
Pond, Mrs. T. A., 174, Upper Parliament Street, Liverpool. (Nov. 1902).
Porteous, James T., 10, Alexandra Terrace, Hexham. (Sept., 1903).
Pyke, W., 106, Church Street, Preston. (Oct., 1907).

Restall, J. A., 82, Cambridge Street, Birmingham. (Nov., 1903).
Rice, Capt. G., Clayquhat, Blairgowrie, N.B. (July, 1902).
Rogers, W. T., Weald View, Ongar Road, Brentwood, Essex. (Oct., 1907).
Rogerson, Mrs., Fleurville, Cheltenham. (Feb., 1903).
Rotch, C. D., Sunnycliff, Cholmondley Road, West Kirby. (Orig. Mem.)
Row, C. H., Chapel House, Long Melford, Suffolk. (Dec., 1905).

St. A. Wait, Miss Louisa, 12, Rosary Gardens, London, S.W. (Dec., 1907)
Savage, A., 3, Rue Bihorel, Bihorel, Rouen, France. (Dec., 1905).
Scott, J. Easton, M.B., Dinorbin, Woodcote Road, Wallington, Surrey. (March, 1908).
Sidebottom, Mrs. E. Harrop-, Etherow House, Hollingswift, Cheshire. (February, 1908).
Silver, Allen, 11. Foulser Road, Upper Tooting, S.W. (Orig. Mem.)
Simpson, R. E., 9, Christ Church Avenue, Armley, Leeds. (Dec., 1907).
Smithwick, Capt. W. F., Youghal House, Nenagh, Ireland. (Dec., 1902).
Snell, S. H., M.D., 261, Trinity Road, Wandsworth, S.W. (March, 1904).
Somers, Frank, M.R.C.V.S., 66, Francis Street, Leeds. (Jan., 1907).
Sprankling, E., Brookland Cottage, South Road, Taunton. (Feb., 1908).
Storey, James, 7, Blenheim Terrace, St. John's Wood, N.W. (Orig. Mem.)
Suggitt, R., Suggit's Lane, Cleethorpes. (Dec., 1903).
Sutcliffe, Albert, Field House, Grimsby. (May, 1907).
Swan, J. A., Meadow View, Northcote Road, Sidcup, Kent. (Oct., 1901)
Swaysland, W., 47, Queen's Road, Brighton. (Orig. Mem.)

Teschemaker, W. E., B.A., Ringmore, Teignmouth, Devon. (March, 1907).
Thomson, John, Officers' Quarters, Powder Mill Lane, Waltham Abbey, Essex. (Feb., 1908).
Tomassi Baldelli, La Countessa G., 4, Via Silvio Pelico, Florence, Italy. (Dec., 1901).
Townsend, S. M., 3, Swift Street, Fulham, S.W. (Orig. Mem.)
Toye, Mrs. M., Stanhope, Bideford, N. Devon. (Nov. 1901).

TRAVERS, Miss ANNETTE, Kingcraigee, Courtmacsherry, co. Cork. (Dec., 1903).

TROWER, T. A., 442, Caledonian Road, London, N. (Feb., 1908).

VERE, The Very Rev. Canon, 21A, Soho Square, London, W. (Nov., 1903).

VERNON, Mrs., Toddington Manor, Dunstable, Beds. (Oct., 1905).

WALKER, A., M.A., B.Sc., M.D., Rathgar, Melbourne Avenue, Sheffield. (Dec., 1907).

WARDALE, H., Willington House, Willington Quay, Northumberland. (May, 1903).

WATTS, RUDOLPH, Wilmar, Wiggenhall Road, Watford. (Nov , 1906).

WEBB, W., 1, North Road, Surbiton. (Jan., 1904).

WESTACOTT, H., Wellington Hotel, Minehead. (Sept., 1907).

WHEELER, ALFRED, 2, West View Terrace, Droitwich Road, Worcester. (Sept., 1903).

WHITTAKER, T. H., Ravensmere, Marine Drive, Ansdell, Lytham, Lancs. (Dec., 1903).

WILMOT, The Rev. RICHARD H., Bishopsgate Rectory, Hereford. (Nov., 1902).

WILSON, Miss F. M., 34, Charrington Street, London, N.W. (March, 1906).

WILSON, T. N., M.A., Oak Lodge, Bitterne, nr. Southampton. (Jan., 1902).

WINCHILSEA and NOTTINGHAM, The Countess of, Harlech, Merioneth. (June, 1903).

WOODMASS, Mrs., Southwick Gardens, London, S.W. (Feb., 1908).

WORMALD, HUGH, Heathfield, East Dereham, Norfolk. (Jan., 1908).

WROTTESLEY, The Hon. WALTER B., F.Z.S., Sersdon, Apsley End, Hemel Hempstead. (Dec., 1902).

☞ *The Hon. Editorial Secretary requests that he may be promptly advised of any errors or omissions in the above list.*

March, 1908.

Roll of Associates.

ACUTT, J., 114, Uplands Road, East Dulwich. (July, 1907).

BLACKBURN, Miss MILDRED, 185, Vauxhall Road, Birmingham. (Oct., 1907).

BRICKWOOD, Miss EDITH, 3, Ladies Lodge, Dunstable, Beds. (May, 1907).

GREEVEN, Miss M., 29, Queensborough Terrace, Hyde Park, W. (Oct., 1907).

HALLIDAY, CHARLES, Bridge Street, Banbridge, co. Down. (June, 1903).

HARTON, Miss E., 53, Goldhurst Terrace, South Hampstead. (Nov., 1903).

HAWKE, The Hon. M. C., Wighill Park, Tadcaster. (Nov., 1902).

HENTSCH, W. J., Douglas Villa, Acacia Grove, New Malden, Surrey. (Jan., 1904).

HINCKS, Miss E. M., Baron's Down, Dulverton. (Jan., 1903).

HYDE & Co., Ltd., R., Harold Street, Camberwell, S.E. (May, 1902).

LEE, Miss CONSTANCE, Budleigh, Salterton, R.S.O., Devon. (Dec., 1904).

LOCK, Miss M., 84a, Salisbury Road, Brondesbury, London, N.W. (Feb., 1906).

LYTHGOE, G. W. F., 25, Stamford Street, Old Trafford, Manchester. (Nov., 1906).

MARSHALL, Mrs., Ashley Warren, Walton-on Thames. (Dec., 1903).

MARTIN, Mrs. HORACE, 13, Hillside, Wimbledon, Surrey. (May, 1904).

MEADOWS, J. C. W., 17, Cardiff Road, Luton, Beds. (Feb., 1908).

MITCHELL, H., Holmfield, Lyndhurst, Hants. (Sept , 1903).

REEVE, Capt. W. SHERARD, Leadenham House, Lincoln. (March, 1908).

SAYWELL, Miss THEODORA, The College, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire. (Oct., 1902).

WARD, The Hon. Mrs. SOMERSET, Carrowdore Castle, Donaghadee, co. Down. (Oct., 1905).

☞ *The Hon. Editorial Secretary requests that he may be promptly advised of any errors or omissions in the above list.*

RULES.

1. The objects of "The Foreign Bird Club" shall be the mutual encouragement and assistance of the members and associates in the keeping, breeding, and exhibiting of Foreign Birds, and the improvement of Shows, in regard to them.

2. The Club shall be composed of members and associates. Every member shall pay an entrance fee of 2/6 and an annual subscription of 10/-. Every associate shall pay an entrance fee of 2/6 and an annual subscription of 5/-. Associates shall have such of the privileges of members as the Council shall from time to time direct. Subscriptions shall be due and payable in advance on the 1st of March in each year. If any member's or associate's subscriptions shall be more than three months overdue he shall be suspended from all the benefits of the Club, and if more than nine months overdue, notice of his having ceased to be a member or associate of the Club, and of the cause, may be published in the Notices to Members; and on such notice being published he shall cease to be a member or associate accordingly, but his liability for the overdue subscriptions shall continue.

3. New members shall be proposed in writing by a member of the Club and new associates by either a member or an associate; and the name and address of every person thus proposed, with the name of the person proposing him, shall be published in the Notices to Members. Unless the candidate shall, within fourteen days after the publication of his name, be objected to by at least two members, he shall be duly elected. If two or more members lodge with either of the Secretaries objections to any candidate he shall not be elected, but the signature to the signed objections must be verified by the Scrutineer. The Secretaries and the Scrutineer shall not disclose the names of the objectors. Associates desirous to become members shall go through the same form of election as other candidates but shall not pay an entrance fee.

4. Any member or associate wishing to resign at the end of the current year of the Club shall give notice of his intention to one of the Secretaries before the 1st of February, and in default of such notice he shall be liable for the following year's subscription.

5. The officers of the Club shall be elected from the members and shall consist of a President, one or more Vice-Presidents, an Auditor, a Scrutineer, one or more Secretaries, a Treasurer, a Council of twelve members, and such number of Judges as shall from time to time be determined by the Council. The Secretary or Secretaries and the Treasurer shall be ex-officio members of the Council. The Secretary or Secretaries, and Treasurer shall be elected triennially. The Council, and the Judges shall be elected annually by the members in manner hereinafter provided. The other officers shall be elected annually at a meeting of the Council immediately after their own election.

6. The election of the Secretary or Secretaries, Treasurer, Council, and Judges shall take place every year between the 15th of January and the 5th of February. The Secretaries shall ascertain which of the members are willing to stand for election to office, and shall send to each member of the Club, on or about the 15th of January, a voting paper containing a list of all such members, showing the offices for which they are respectively seeking election. Each member shall make a cross (x) opposite the names of those for whom he desires to vote, and shall sign the paper at the foot and send it in a sealed envelope to the Scrutineer, so that he may receive it before the 5th of February. The Scrutineer shall prepare a return of the officers elected, showing the number of votes recorded for each candidate,

and send it to one of the Secretaries for publication in the Notices to Members for February. The Scrutineer shall not reveal to any person how any member shall have voted. In the event of an equality of votes the President shall have a casting vote.

7. Dealers in birds shall not be eligible for election to any office in the Club, except that of Judge. For the purpose of this rule, any member who habitually buys birds with the intention of selling them again shall be deemed a dealer in birds. Before the annual election of officers, the Secretaries shall submit to the Council the list of members willing to stand for election to the Secretaryship, the Treasurership, and the Council, and the Council shall remove from the list the name of any candidate who shall be, in the opinion of the Council, a dealer in birds within the meaning of this rule. The decision of the Council, or of any Committee to whom the Council shall delegate its power under this rule, shall be final. When a dealer is proposed as a member of the Club, the fact of his being a dealer shall be stated in the Notices to Members.

8. It shall be lawful for the Council to delegate any of its powers to a Committee.

9. The Council may appoint an Arbitration Committee, which may decide questions at issue between members and associates when requested to do so by both parties. Any decision of such Committee shall be final. Except to the extent permitted by this rule, the Club and its officers shall decline to concern themselves with disputes between members.

10. The Council shall have power to alter and add to the Rules, but shall give to the members notice of any proposed alteration or addition, and in the event of six members objecting thereto within fourteen days the proposed alterations or addition shall be submitted to the votes of the members. Failing such objection the alteration or addition shall date from its adoption by the Council.

11. The Council shall have power to expel any member or associate at any time.

12. Neither the office of Scrutineer nor that of Auditor shall be held for two consecutive years by the same person. The Scrutineer shall not be a candidate at any election at which he acts as Scrutineer.

13. If any office becomes vacant at any time other that at the end of the current year of the Club, the Council shall have power to nominate any member to fill the vacancy.

14. The decision of the majority of the Council shall be final and binding on the Club, but a resolution passed by the Council shall not be acted upon unless there be an absolute majority of the Council (and not merely of those voting) in its favour.

NOTICES TO MEMBERS.

It has been suggested that we have a series running through this volume entitled "OUR MEMBERS' AVIARIES AND BIRDROOMS." The suggestion appears to be a very practical one and also likely to be of very general interest. It lies with our members as to whether we are able to carry it out. Will those members possessing aviaries and birdrooms, or both, kindly send accounts of same, accompanied if possible with photographs ?

Our best thanks are due to Mr. H. Wormald, for the exceedingly fine illustrations accompanying his article on Waders in Captivity. Also to Miss Brooksbank, for the drawing of the Bengalee We would re-echo the wish expressed during last year, that our native birds occupy a larger space in our Journal. We urge all members who keep British Birds in their aviaries to send in accounts of same. We also invite "FIELD NOTES" from those members living in rural localities.

We specially urge those members residing abroad to send us accounts of the birds of their locality, if possible accompanied by photos of nests in *situ*, etc.

Mrs. Miller has several eggs of Forstein's Lorikeets; if there are any members interested in same, Mrs. Miller will have pleasure in forwarding them upon receiving an intimation to that effect.

The Roll has been thoroughly revised and only the names of paying members retained. It is requested that each member and associate will check their name and address, and promptly notify the Editorial Secretary of any error or omission.

We again specially urge all to keep up the effort to add to our numbers, that the steady progress of the past few months may be at least maintained.

IMPORTANT.

Vol. I. is out of print; we have urgent requests for 5 copies. If there are another twenty-five members who would like a copy to complete their series, we will reprint, but as this will be very costly the price per copy must be 20/-. Reprinting cannot be commenced till we have orders in hand for 30 copies.

The vol. consists of 16 monthly issues and runs into 377 pages.

Orders to be sent to the Hon. Editorial Secretary.

WESLEY T. PAGE,
Hon. Editorial Secretary.

ILLUSTRATION FUND.

The Committee thankfully acknowledge the following donations to Illustration Fund:

	£	s.	d.
C. Castle-Sloane	5	0	0
W. E. Teschemaker	1	1	0
La Countessa G. Tomassi Baldelli	0	10	0
Mrs. Warren Vernon (2nd donation)	0	10	0
Miss F. M. Wilson	0	10	0
The Editor (2nd donation to cover Editor's and Secretary's a/c.)	6	7	7
	£13	18	7

NEW MEMBERS ELECTED.

Mrs. B. W. Hodgkin, 6, Priory Terrace, Kew, London.

E. Sprankling, Brookland Cottage, South Road, Taunton.

T. A. Trower, 442, Caledonian Road, London, N.

J. Thomson, Powder Mill Lane, Waltham Abbey, Essex.

Mrs. Woodmass, 7, Southwick Gardens, London, S.W.

Mrs. E. Harrop Sidebottom, Etherow House, Hollingworth, Cheshire.

NEW ASSOCIATE ELECTED.

J. C. W. Meadows, 17, Cardiff Road, Luton, Beds.

PROPOSED FOR ELECTION AS MEMBERS.

J. Easton Scott, M.B., Dinorbin, Woodcote Road, Wellington, Surrey.

Louis J. Arrighi, Harrison View, Watson Crescent, Edinburgh.

Sydney Beaty, Strathnarn, Elm Grove, Alderley Edge, Cheshire.
By the Hon. Editor.

E. J. Brook, Hoddom Castle, Ecclefechan, N.B.
By Mrs. K. Leslie Miller.

PROPOSED FOR ELECTION AS ASSOCIATES.

Captain John Sherard Reeve, Leadenham House, Lincoln.
By Mrs. Warren Vernon.

J. Smith, Woodlands, Kendal.

T. E. Hadley, 29, 30 and 31, Princess Street, Burton-on-Trent.
By the Hon. Editor.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS.

J. MacArthur, *to* 6, Councillor Street, Camberwell New Road, London, S.E.

Dr. McDonagh, *to* Kettlewell, Swanley, Kent.

Allen Silver, *to* 11, Foulser Road, Upper Tooting, S.W.

C. D. Rotch, *to* Sunnycliff, Cholmondeley Road, West Kirby, Cheshire.

THE BIRD MARKET.

All advertisements must reach the Editorial Secretary by the 10th of the month.
Charge: Members' advertisements, four words a penny;
Non-Members, three words a penny.

MEMBERS' ADVERTISEMENTS.

For Sale—Orange-breasted Waxbill (cock) healthy and acclimatised, breast almost crimson. Price 5/.

Mrs. MILLER, 27, Belgrave Road, S.W.

For Sale—Salmon-crested Cockatoo, in good plumage, £4 4s. od.

Mrs. ANNINGSON, Walt-ham-sal, Barton Road, Cambridge.

Wanted—thoroughly acclimatised hen Zebra (Orange-breast) Waxbill, also cock Fire-finch and cock Cordon-bleu.

Mrs. HARROP-SIDEBOTTOM, Etherow House, Hollingworth, Cheshire.

NON-MEMBER'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

FOR SALE.—Bell Birds £5 pair, Green Singing Finches, Grey Singing Finches, Lavender Finches, Steel Finches, Fire Finches, Cordon Bleus 3/6 pair, Dwarf Finches 7/6 pair, White Javas 8/6 pair, Cutthroats, Whydahs, Weavers, Bishops, Combassous. Bronzewings, Waxbills, Orangecheeks, Grey Javas, Silverbills, Nuns, 2/6 pair. 6 pairs 12/-, 10 pairs 18/-, all hardened off from perfectly cold room, inspection invited. Magnificent Yellow Budgerigars breeding pairs, 10/- pair, 2nd quality 8/6 pair. Glossy Starlings, beautiful condition, 20/- each, Storks 50/- pair, Spoonbills 40/- pair, Hartz Mountain Roller Canaries 7/6, and 10/6 each, Schoolmaster 15/- each, Teal 8/6 each, Garganey 10/- pair, Red-headed Ducks 20/- pair, Black Diving Ducks 20/- pair, Large Heron Gulls 5/6 pair, Common Gulls 3/6 pair, Knots 5/6, Waterhens 2/6, Amherst Pheasants 30/- pair, Silver Pheasants 30/- pair, etc.

Goldfish 9d., 1/-, 2/-, 3/- doz. Large breeding Goldfish 5/- pair. All kinds of fancy fish and aquaria requisites. Small Rush Nests 6d each, Cocoanut Husks, wired ready for use, 6d each, 3/0 doz. Insect Food 6d lb., best 2/- lb. Nestbags 6d dozen. Egg York 3/6 lb. Preserved Silkworm Grubs 3/6 lb. Ants' Eggs 1/6 lb. Dried Flies 1/8. Best Mealworms 2/- 1,000, 5/6 lb. Cuttlebone 10d. lb. Spray Millet 1/6 bundle of 50. Full Price List on application.

DE VON, 114, Bethnal Green Road, London, E.

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BOUND VOLUMES OF "BIRD NOTES."

Volume I. is out of print. **See Notices to Members.**

Of Volume II. there remain only a few copies,		
to Members and Associates		7/6
to others		10/6
Volumes III., IV. & V. *with hand-coloured plates*		
to Members and Associates	each	10/6
to others	,,	15/-
,, ,, *with plates uncoloured*		
to Members and Associates	each	7/6
to others	,,	10/6

Cases for binding Vols. I., II., III., IV. and V. may be had, price 1/2 each post free.

Application for Bound Volumes and cases must be made to the Publishers.

Cases for binding Vol. VI. now ready, to be obtained of the Publishers.

☞ When corresponding with advertizers please mention "Bird Notes."

APRIL, 1908.

The Foreign Bird Club.

NOTICES TO MEMBERS.

UNPAID SUBSCRIPTIONS. In the hope of avoiding the trouble and expense of sending out circulars, the Hon. Editorial Secretary has sent out (at his own risk) the first two issues of current vol. to members and associates whether subscriptions have been paid or not. Will those who have overlooked the fact of subscriptions being due on March 1st, kindly send same at once, so as to save needless expenditure of the Club's funds in applying for same.

THE MAGAZINE. It is proposed to make a special feature during the year of comprehensive and practical articles dealing with various species of birds, taking them group by group, such articles to comprise a description of suitable cage or aviary, food and fully detailed treatment which the various species require; so as to make the Magazine as useful to the tyro as the more experienced aviculturist. The Committee earnestly hope some member, who has made a special study of Parrakeets, will volunteer to write such an article as that indicated above. The Hon. Editor hopes to hear from some member willing to so oblige at an early date.

The Hon. Editor earnestly desires to publish a Magazine that will command success, *and while confident that by next year the financial position will be fully assured;* yet the fact remains that our present membership is not sufficient to support the magazine,—that is, as to bulk, number and quality of Illustrations as last volume—unless our income be supplemented by *voluntary* donations. He feels sure that for another year there are many members who will be willing to do this. The Hon. Editor is willing to give one coloured plate outright, if the members will subscribe to a guarantee fund for another three, £18 being about the amount required. The very satisfactory recent increase in our membership is a most encouraging feature, but we would point out that no Club or Society can stand on the efforts of its officers alone; and we specially desire to draw members attention to this fact, both as to introducing new members and supplying copy for the Magazine.

The Council desire to express their keen appreciation of the very generous response made last year on behalf of the Illustration Fund, and feel assurred that they will have again this year the same practical help and assistance in the effort to make *Bird Notes* the most practical and best illustrated Bird Journal published.

The Committee earnestly solicit the opinion of members on this matter through the medium of the Correspondence column or otherwise.

The Hon. Editorial Secretary also desires to arrange for two mass meetings of the Club annually; one in the Summer, and the other during the Show Season; and suggestions are invited from members as to its practicability and the best methods for carrying it into effect.

RE-PRINTING VOL. I

See Notice in March issue. This cannot be commenced till we have orders in hand for 30 copies—so far 10 copies are on order. Orders for same to be sent to the Hon. Editorial Secretary.

Wesley T. Page,
Hon. Editorial Secretary.

ILLUSTRATION FUND.

The Committee thankfully acknowledge the following donations to Illustration Fund:

	s.	d.
Mr. O. Millsum	10	0
Mr. H. Mitchell	10	0
Miss Travers	10	0
Mr. Aronstein	5	0
Mr. Perkins	5	0
	£2 0	0

NEW MEMBERS ELECTED.

J. Easton Scott, M.B., Dinorbin, Woodcote Road, Wallington, Surrey.
Louis J. Arrighi, Harrison View, Watson Crescent, Edinburgh, N.B.
Sydney Beaty, Strathnarn, Elm Grove, Alderley Edge, Cheshire.
E. J. Brook, Hoddom Castle, Ecclefechan, N.B.

NEW ASSOCIATES ELECTED.

Captain John Sherard Reeve, Leadenham House, Lincoln.
J. Smith, Woodlands, Kendal.
T. E. Hadley, 29, 30 and 31, Princess Street, Burton-on-Trent.

PROPOSED FOR ELECTION AS MEMBERS.

E. L. Keith Murray, 1, Chudleigh Villas, Bideford, North Devon.
Mrs. Wortley Quait, St. Brannock's Mundesley, Norfolk.
By the Hon. Editor.

D. H. Creasey, 48, Albert Road, Longsight, Manchester.
By G. W. Lythgoe.

CORRECTED NAMES, ETC., AND CHANGES OF ADDRESS.

T. R. TROWER, 442, Caledonian Road, London, N.
Rev. R. WILMOT, Bishopstone Rectory, Hereford.
Mrs. WOODMASS, 7, Southwell Gardens, London, S.W.
J. H. HARRISON, "Ellerslie," East Beach, Lytham.
Captain J. S. REEVE, Leadenham House, Lincoln.
J. CRONKSHAW, Peel Mount, Burnley Road, Accrington.
J. T. HOLLINS, Station Square, Harrogate.

ASSOCIATES ELECTED AS MEMBERS.

The Hon. Mrs. SOMERSET WARD.
Mr. H. MITCHELL.

◆

THE BIRD MARKET.

All advertisements must reach the Editorial Secretary by the 10th of the month.
Charge: Members' advertisements, four words a penny;
Non-Members, three words a penny.

MEMBERS' ADVERTISEMENTS.

COLOURED PLATES: The following are in stock: Vivaceous Finch, Orange-flanked Parrakeet, Yellow Sparrow, Indian Roller, Tricoloured Tanager, Waxwing, Sepoy Finch, Senegal Parrot and Gouldian Finch. These can be supplied to members uncut, for framing, at 1/- each. Any others, which have appeared in *Bird Notes*, can be coloured to order and supplied at same rate. *Apply* The HON. EDITORIAL SECRETARY.

FOR SALE. Grand pair Blue Mountain Lories (1st Woolwich); cock Pennant, cock Barnard, cock Slenderbill Cockatoo, three Bare Eyes (one talking), Great Sulphur-crested, all winners; Leadbeater Cockatoo (winner of upwards of 100 1st Prizes, including F.B.C. Silver Medal at Crystal Palace, 1908); pair Black-headed Gouldians (1st Manchester, etc.); magnificent pair Red-headed Finches (V.H.C. Palace); Russ Moustache Parrakeet, rare, (2nd Leeds, etc.); pair Grey Javas (3rd Palace); Pectoralis, Ruficauda and Yellow-rumped Finches. The above have all been in constant exhibition during the last season, and have won upwards of 100 prizes during that time. They are in perfect plumage. Also Yellow and Green Budgerigars; Love Birds; Saffron Finches; Cordon Bleus; Waxbills; Avadavats; Nuns; Whydahs; Mules; Canaries; etc. British Birds in great variety. Enquiries invited.

J. T. HOLLINS, *Winner Silver and Bronze F.B.C. Medals*, 1908,
Station Square, Harrogate.

Collection of Bird books for disposal: about 100 vols. in all, including complete sets *Avicultural Magazine* (13 vols.) and *Bird Notes* (6 vols.) Full list from J. A. SWAN, Meadow View, Northcote Road, Sidcup, Kent.

FOR SALE: Pair Saffron Finches 10/- and a male Red-crested Cardinal 10/-, perfect—from outdoor aviary. WANTED: Two hen Cutthroats and a hen White Java Sparrow.

BRIDGEWATER, Terriers House, High Wycombe, Bucks.

NON-MEMBER'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

FOR SALE.—Bell Birds £5 pair, Green Singing Finches, Grey Singing Finches, Lavender Finches, Steel Finches, Fire Finches, Cordon Bleus 3/6 pair, Dwarf Finches 7/6 pair, White Javas 8/6 pair, Cutthroats, Whydahs, Weavers, Bishops, Combassous, Bronzewings, Waxbills, Orangecheeks, Grey Javas, Silverbills, Nuns, 2/6 pair. 6 pairs 12/-, 10 pairs 18/-, all hardened off from perfectly cold room, inspection invited. Magnificent Yellow Budgerigars breeding pairs, 10/- pair, 2nd quality 8/6 pair. Glossy Starlings, beautiful condition, 20/- each, Storks 50/- pair, Spoonbills 40/- pair, Hartz Mountain Roller Canaries 7/6, and 10/6 each, Schoolmaster 15/- each, Teal 8/6 each, Garganey 10/- pair, Red-headed Ducks 20/- pair, Black Diving Ducks 20/- pair, Large Heron Gulls 5/6 pair, Common Gulls 3/6 pair, Knots 5/6, Waterhens 2/6, Amherst Pheasants 30/- pair, Silver Pheasants 30/- pair, etc.

Goldfish 9d., 1/-, 2/-, 3/- doz. Large breeding Goldfish 5/- pair. All kinds of fancy fish and aquaria requisites. Small Rush Nests 6d each, Cocoanut Husks, wired ready for use, 6d each, 3/6 doz. Insect Food 6d lb., best 2/- lb. Nestbags 6d dozen. Egg Yolk 3/6 lb. Preserved Silkworm Grubs 3/6 lb. Ants' Eggs 1/6 lb. Dried Flies 1/8 Best Mealworms 2/- 1,000, 5/6 lb. Cuttlebone 10d. lb. Spray Millet 1/6 bundle of 50. Full Price List on application.

DE VON, 114, Bethnal Green Road, London, E.

◆

BOUND VOLUMES OF "BIRD NOTES."

Volume I. is out of print. **See Notices to Members.**

Of Volume II. there remain only a few copies,		
to Members and Associates		10/-
to others		12/6
Volumes III., IV. & V. *with hand-coloured plates*		
to Members and Associates	each	10 6
to others	,,	15 -
,, ,, *with plates uncoloured*		
to Members and Associates	each	7 6
to others	,,	10 6
Volume VI. *with hand-coloured plates*		
to Members and Associates	each	15/-
to others	,,	20/-
,, ,, *with plates uncoloured*		
to Members and Associates	each	10/-
to others	,,	15/-

Cases for binding Vols. I., II., III., IV., V. and VI. may be had, price 1/2 each post free.

Application for Bound Volumes and cases must be made to the Publishers.

Cases for binding Vol. VI. now ready, to be obtained of the Publishers.

MAY 15th, 1908.

The Foreign Bird Club.

NOTICES TO MEMBERS.

Members are requested to carefully note the Notices to Members in last issue, particularly those referring to copy.

In case of members writing for advice—if a reply does not come to hand in the ordinary period, will they please repeat query to the Editorial Secretary? This will save delay, in the case of others being away and letters waiting their return.

WESLEY T. PAGE,
Hon. Editorial Secretary.

ILLUSTRATION FUND.

The Committee thankfully acknowledge the following donations to Illustration Fund:

	£	s.	d.
The Countess of Winchelsea (*deficit*) ..	2	0	0
Rev. E. P. Gorringe	0	10	0
	£2	10	0

CHANGES AND CORRECTIONS OF ADDRESS.

Mrs. E. HARROP SIDEBOTTOM, Etherow House, Hollingworth, Cheshire.

Capt. G. A. PERREAU, 12, Sion Hill, Bath.

D. DEWAR, c/o Messrs. Grindley & Co., 54, Parliament Street, London, S.W.

H. C. OBERHOLSER, 1445, Girard Street, Washington, D.C., U.S.A.

NEW MEMBERS ELECTED.

A. L. KEITH MURRAY, 1, Chudleigh Villas, Bideford, North Devon.

Mrs. WORTLEY QUAIT, St. Brannock's Mundesley, Norfolk.

D. H. CREASEY, 48, Albert Road, Longsight, Manchester.

PROPOSED FOR ELECTION AS MEMBERS.

P. S. HOYTE, Plymouth and Stonehouse Gas Light and Coke Compy., Engineer's Office, Coxside, Plymouth. *By* N. S. O'Reilly.

J. T. EDMUNDS, 66, County Road, Swindon. *By* O. MILLSUM.

G. KENNEDY, 1/4 Gurkha Rifles, Bakloh, Punjab, India. *By* Capt. PERREAU.

W. H. FISHER, The Bush Hotel, Farnham, Surrey.

A. J. HUXLEY, 57, Bradford Street, Walsall.

T. TURNER, Cullompton, Devon. *By* the Hon. Editor.

THE BIRD MARKET.

All advertisements must reach the Editorial Secretary by the 10th of the month.
Charge: Members' advertisements, four words a penny;
Non-Members, three words a penny.

MEMBERS' ADVERTISEMENTS.

COLOURED PLATES: The following are in stock: Vinaceous Finch, Orange Flanked Parrakeet, Yellow Sparrow, Indian Roller, Tri-coloured Tanager, Waxwing, Sepoy Finch, Senegal Parrot and Gouldian Finch. These can be supplied to members uncut, for framing, at 1/- each. Any others which have appeared in *Bird Notes*, can be coloured to order and supplied at the same rate.

Apply The Hon. EDITORIAL SECRETARY.

For Sale.—A perfect pair of Barnard Parrakeets from outdoor aviary, in exquisite condition, winners repeatedly, absolutely tame, £4 4/-; also a handsome Borzoi bitch, £4 4/-.

Full particulars HADLEY, Draper, Burton-on-Trent

Cockateels, 1907 bred, unrelated pair, ready to nest 9/-, cocks 4/- each; Adelaide Parrakeet paired to Port Lincoln Parrakeet 60/- pair. All are in outdoor aviary. J. HUME, Hepscott, Morpeth.

WANTED.—Cock Rufous-backed Mannikin, purchase or exchange hen; also cock Quail Finch. TESCHEMAKER, Ringmore, Teignmouth.

◆

BOUND VOLUMES OF "BIRD NOTES."

Volume I. is out of print. **See Notices to Members** (March issue).

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Volumes III., IV. & V. *with hand-coloured plates*			
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	to others	,,	15/-
,, ,, *with plates uncoloured*			
	to Members and Associates	each	7/6
	to others	,,	10/6
Volume VI. *with hand-coloured plates*			
	to Members and Associates	each	15/-
	to others	,,	20/-
,, ,, *with plates uncoloured*			
	to Members and Associates	each	10/-
	to others	,,	15/-

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Cases for binding Vol. VI. now ready, to be obtained of the Publishers.

JUNE 15th, 1908.

The Foreign Bird Club.

NOTICES TO MEMBERS.

Members are requested to refer to Notices in April issue, and carefully note same. The Hon. Editorial Secretary would be glad to have members' views concerning the points raised therein; either for publication under Correspondence, or for his private perusal only, as desired.

Articles on Aviaries and Bird Rooms are in much request, as also are Nesting Notes, and comprehensive accounts of special species, whether common (that is freely imported) or rare. Photographs of cages, etc., (which owners have found successful) with descriptive notes, will be greatly appreciated and of much general interest.

I most certainly hope all the members will realise that *Bird Notes* is their Magazine, and that all will feel that they have, or ought to have, a share in its welfare and prosperity.

The re-printing of Vol. I. cannot be undertaken till we have orders in hand for 30 copies, so far orders have come in for only 10 copies. I should be glad to hear from any members having Vol. I. for disposal, either bound or in loose parts.

WESLEY T. PAGE,
Hon. Editorial Secretary.

ILLUSTRATION FUND.

The Committee thankfully acknowledge the following donations to Illustration Fund:

	£	s.	d.
J. Hume	0	2	6
F. Capern	1	10	0
A Friend (1907 deficit)..	0	2	6
Mrs. E. A. Hartley (for 1907)	0	10	0
	£2	5	0

NEW MEMBERS ELECTED.

P. S. HOYTE, Plymouth and Stonehouse Gas Light and Coke Compy., Engineer's Office, Coxside, Plymouth.
J. T. EDMUNDS, 66, County Road, Swindon.
Lieut. G. KENNEDY, 1/4 Gurkha Rifles, Bakloh, Punjab, India.
W. H. FISHER, The Bush Hotel, Farnham, Surrey.
A. J. HUXLEY, 57, Bradford Street, Walsall.
T. TURNER, Cullompton, Devon.

PROPOSED FOR ELECTION AS MEMBERS.

H. L. SICH, Bepton Rectory, Midhurst, Sussex. *By* Capt. G. A. PERREAU.
The Hon. Lady HARVEY, Langley Park, Slough.
W. J. LEWIS, Corstorphine, Ryde, Isle of Wight.
G. B. WRIGHT, Aston Hall, Aston-by-Stone, Staffs.
Mrs. K. E. DOBSON, The Quarries, Chapel Allerton, Leeds.
By the Hon. Editor.

CHANGES AND CORRECTIONS OF ADDRESS.

E. J. Lamb, Alverstone, Thetford Road, New Maldon, Surrey.

THE BIRD MARKET.

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Apply The Hon. Editorial Secretary.

Rare Dwarf Doves, imported by Mr. Harper, guaranteed pair, nesting £2 2/-; Cocks—Archbishop Tanager, Green Tanager, Cassique, all beautiful condition, 15/- each; Nuthatch 7/6. WANTED—Cock Quail Finch, Cape Canary.

Teschemaker, Teignmouth.

Indian birds brought over by advertiser in April—Cock Plumbeous Redstart, perfect, £5; two Himalayan Whistling Thrushes. £4 and £3 each; one pair Grey-winged Ouzels, £8; Laughing Thrushes, four White-crested (rough), one Himalayan Streaked, one Spectacled, 30/- each; two Black-headed Sibias, one cock Dayal Robin, one Gold-fronted Green Bulbul, 30/- each; two Punjab Red-vented, three White-cheeked (curl crest) rough, the five for 30/-; two pairs Black-headed Buntings (handsome, black, yellow and chestnut) 30/- a pair; three Rain Quail 10/6 each; two cock Little Button Quail paired to 2 hen Bustard Quail, 25/- pair. *Offers considered for selections.* WANTED—True adult unrelated pairs Bourkes Parrakeets and Parrot Finches, but delivery connot be taken yet.

Captain Perreau, 12, Sion Hill, Bath.

An exceptionally fine pair of Barnard Parrakeets for sale, 1st and Special Dudley, etc., £4 4/-.

Hadley, Draper, Burton-on-Trent.

Cockatiels, 1907 bred, unrelated pair ready to nest, 9/-, cock 4/-; hen Virginian Cardinal, 1906 aviary bred, 30/-; all are in outdoor aviary.

J. Hume, Hepscott, Morpeth.

NON-MEMBER'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

FOR SALE—Beautiful Golden Yellow Budgerigars, adult, 10/- pair, this year full-grown young, 8/6 pair; Green Budgerigars, 5/6 pair; White Javas, 10/-; Zebra Doves 4/-; Mapgie Mannikins, 7/6; Aurora Finches, 10/-; White-headed Mannikins, 3/-; Cordon Bleus, 3/- pair; St. Helena Waxbills, Crimson-eared Waxbills, Orange-cheeks, Grey Javas, Tricolours, Black-headed Nuns, Cutthroats Spice Birds, Bishops, Weavers, all 2/6 pair, or six pairs for 12/-. Pet Squirrels 4/6 each, 8/- pair. Ants' Eggs 1/4 lb. Dried Flies 1/6. Cuttle bone 6d. Insectivorous food 6d and 1/6 lb. Cocoanut Husk nests 5d each, 3/6 per dozen. Mealworms 1/6 1000, 5/- lb Small Indian Millet 4d lb. Send for List.

Miss Rosey, 73, Tideswell Road, Eastbourne

Doria De Von & Co.: Write for list of British and Foreign birds.—Largest importers in England.—Show Specimens a speciality. *Address* D. De Von, 114, Bethnal Green Road, London. *Telephone* 5489, London Wall. *Telegraphic Address* Oiseaux, London.

☞ When corresponding with advertizers please mention "Bird Notes."

JULY 15th, 1908.

The Foreign Bird Club.

NOTICES TO MEMBERS.

THE BALANCE SHEET, 1907-8: The attention of members is directed to remarks on same under "Editorial." Unfortunately there is a deficit of £18 5s. 2d., towards this our late Treasurer, Mrs. K. Leslie Miller, has most generously promised £10; it is hoped that the remainder, £8 5s. 2d., will be voluntarily subscribed so that this year's funds may not be infringed upon.

An article on Parrakeets and their habitations in captivity is much needed—will some member kindly volunteer to write such an article?

IMPORTANT: In accordance with precedent we shall not publish an August issue, therefore the next issue of *Bird Notes* will not appear till September 15th; any member requiring *Post mortem* Reports before that date must send postal fee, as per rules, for a reply by post.

Nesting Notes: Will all kindly record such as take place in their cages or aviaries? Even where complete success is not attained, such notes are of the greatest general interest and are valuable data.

We are again indebted to Mr. Wormald, for the loan of his fine drawings of Teal for reproduction, and regret the half-tone process has not done full justice to them.

WESLEY T. PAGE,
Hon. Editorial Secretary.

The Council thankfully acknowledge the following donations towards the Deficit.

	£	s.	d.
Mrs. K. Leslie Miller	10	0	0
Hon. W. B. Wrottesley	0	10	0
Lady Dunleath	2	2	0
ILLUSTRATION FUND.			
L. W. Horton	0	5	0
	£12	17	0

NEW MEMBERS ELECTED.

H. L. SICH, Bepton Rectory, Midhurst, Sussex.
The Hon. Lady HARVEY, Langley Park, Slough.
W. J. LEWIS, Corstorphine, Ryde, Isle of Wight.
G. B. WRIGHT, Aston Hall, Aston-by-Stone, Staffs.
Mrs. K. E. DOBSON, The Quarries, Chapel Allerton, Leeds.

PROPOSED FOR ELECTION AS MEMBERS.

JAS. V. ELLIS, 23, Baronsmead Road, Barnes, S.W.
G. E. WESTON, 45, Cleveland Mansions, London, N.W.
HENRY SCHERREN, F.Z S., 9, Cavendish Road, Harringay, N.
Lady EDITH DOUGLAS PENNANT, Soham House, Newmarket.
HENRY WILLFORD, Haven Street, Isle of Wight.

By the Hon. Editor.

CHANGES AND CORRECTIONS OF ADDRESS.

J. MACARTHUR, 150, Vauxhall Bridge Road, Westminster, S.W.
A. WALKER, M.A., M.D., etc., The Chestnuts, Westbourne Road, Sheffield.

THE BIRD MARKET.

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Apply The Hon. EDITORIAL SECRETARY.

Pileated Jay, acclimatised, good plumage, steady and in perfect condition, 50/-; pair Varied Lorikeets, acclimatised, perfect health, £5, or with specially constructed cage and travelling basket, £6.

Mrs. WARREN VERNON, Toddington Manor, Beds.

WANTED: Bound copies or complete sets of loose parts of Vol. I.

Apply The Hon. EDITORIAL SECRETARY.

Three Budgerigars (2 cocks and 1 hen) in excellent condition, from outdoor aviary, 10/- the lot. Dr. SNELL, Wandsworth Common.

Red-vented Parrot for sale (*Pionus menstruus*), acclimatised, healthy and tame; sits on hand, would make nice pet; a little rough in plumage. Price £2. T. MILLER, 27, Belgrave Road, S.W.

NON-MEMBER'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

FOR SALE—In perfect Show condition, European Blue Rollers 20/- each, Hoopoes 18/- each, Black-spotted Woodpeckers 18/- each, Green Woodpeckers 18/- each, Emerald Tanagers 20/-, American Mocking Birds 30/- each, Beautiful Golden Yellow Budgerigars, adult, 10/- pair, this year full-grown young, 8/6 pair; Green Budgerigars, 5/6 pair; Magpie Mannikins, 7/6; White-headed Mannikins, 3/-; Cordon Bleus, 3/- pair; St. Helena Waxbills, Crimson-eared Waxbills, Orange-cheeks, Grey Javas, Tricolours, Black-headed Nuns, Cut-throats Spice Birds, Bishops, Weavers, all 2/6 pair, or six pairs for 12/-. Pet Squirrels 4/6 each, 8/- pair. Ants' Eggs 1/4 lb. Dried Flies 1/6. Cuttle bone 6d. Insectivorous food 6d and 1/6 lb. Cocoanut Husk nests 5d each, 3/6 per dozen. Mealworms 1/6 1000, 5/- lb. Small Indian Millet 4d lb. Send for List.

Miss ROSEY, 73, Tideswell Road, Eastbourne

DORIA DE VON & Co.: Write for list of BRITISH and FOREIGN birds.—Largest importers in England.—SHOW SPECIMENS A SPECIALITY. *Address* D. DE VON, 114, Bethnal Green Road, London. *Telephone* 5489, LONDON WALL. *Telegraphic Address* OISEAUX, LONDON.

☞ When corresponding with advertizers please mention "Bird Notes."

DONATIONS TO ILLUSTRATION FUND AND DEFICIT, 1907-8.

	£	s.	d.
A Member	0	10	0
Aitchison, A.	0	10	0
Almond, Rev. F. C.	0	10	0
Anningson, Mrs.	1	1	0
Aronstein, M.	0	5	0
Bateson, Hon. L. de Yarburgh	1	1	0
Bamford, W.	2	0	0
Baker, Miss M. E.	0	5	0
Baldelli, La Countessa G. Tomassi	0	10	0
Bromet, Mrs. H.	1	1	0
Brooksbank, Miss E.	0	5	0
Busteed, Miss	0	5	0
Capern, F.	1	10	0
Castle-Sloane, C.	5	0	0
Dennis, Mrs.	0	5	0
Dewar, D.	0	8	0
Dunleath, Lady	1	0	6
Fasey, W.	1	0	0
Foster, W. H.	1	1	0
Gorringe, Rev. E. P.	0	10	0
Harrison, J. H.	0	10	0
Hartley, Mrs. E. A.	0	10	0
Henstock, J. H.	0	10	0
Hincks, Miss	0	5	0
Hubbard, Mrs. D. L.	0	5	0
Little, Miss Rosa C.	0	5	0

	£	s.	d.
Mellor, Mrs.	0	5	0
Miller, Mrs. K. Leslie	2	2	0
Miller Tinniswoode	0	10	0
Millsum, O.	0	10	0
Mitchell, H.	0	10	0
Mortimer, Mrs.	0	10	0
O'Reilly, N. S.	0	10	0
Page, W. T. (Ed. and Sec.'s Postage, etc.)	8	9	7
Perkins, E.	0	5	0
Perreau, Capt. G. A.	0	10	0
Pickard, H.	0	5	0
Pickles, W. H.	0	5	0
Rogerson, Mrs.	0	5	0
St. A. Wait, Mrs. L. M.	0	8	6
Suggitt, R.	0	10	0
Teschemaker, W. E.	1	1	0
Travers, Miss	0	10	0
Vernon, Mrs. E. Warren	3	10	0
Ward, Hon. Mrs. Somerset	0	10	0
Wheeler, A.	0	5	0
Wilson, Miss F. M.	0	10	0
Wilson, T. N.	0	5	0
Winchilsea, The Countess of (deficit)	2	0	0
Total	£45	8	7

FOREIGN BIRD CLUB. BALANCE SHEET FOR 1907-8.

Cr.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
By Donation: L. W. Horton, Esq., to cover deficit for 1907-8.. ..				8	17	3
Balance brought forward (Publishers)				0	6	6
160 Members' Subscriptions at 10/- ..	80	0	0			
17 Associates ,, at 5/- ..	4	5	0			
39 Entrance Fees	4	17	6			
				89	2	6
Advertisements: Trade	8	3	0			
,, Show	1	0	0			
,, Bird Market ..	2	10	3			
				11	13	3
Sales: Bound Vols., *Bird Notes* ..	8	2	4			
,, Current Numbers	2	5	3			
,, Binding Cases	1	16	6			
				12	4	1
Donations as per List				45	8	7
Sundries				0	2	3
				167	14	5
Deficit				18	5	2
				£185	19	7

Dr.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Balance due to Treasurer (deficit 1906-7)				8	17	3
Printing *Bird Notes*, Mar. '07 to Feb. '08				91	15	3
Coloured Plates:						
Artists' Fees, Hire of Stones, Printing, and Hand-colouring 5 plates				34	2	6
Black & White Illustrations:						
Artists' Fees for Drawings, and Half-tone Blocks				18	4	11
Stationery & Miscellaneous Printing				2	6	6
Publishing Account:						
Strakers, Covers for binding ..	1	1	0			
Moulton & Co., Publishing ..	2	15	0			
,, ,, Postage, etc., distributing *Bird Notes*.. ..	11	3	4			
,, ,, Envelopes, Millboards, etc. ..	1	0	6			
,, ,, Binding Stock Vols.	0	11	0			
,, ,, Balance car. ford.	0	8	3			
				16	19	1
Postage, Carriage & Sundries:						
Editor and Secretary	8	9	7			
Treasurer	2	0	9			
Show Secretary	0	10	6			
				11	0	10
Medals				2	13	3
				£185	19	7

J. H. Harrison, *Hon. Auditor.*

K. Leslie Miller, *Hon. Treasurer.*
Wesley T. Page, *Hon. Editorial Secretary.*

SEPT. 15th, 1908.

The Foreign Bird Club.

NOTICES TO MEMBERS.

The Balance Sheet, 1907-8: It will be seen from the list of donations, that by the generosity of our late Treasurer, A Member and others, that the sum of £20 12s. has been subscribed for the deficit on last year's accounts, leaving a balance of £2. 6s. 10d. to be carried to Illustration Fund for current year. The Committee tender their best thanks for so prompt and generous a response.

The Committee venture to urge upon all the importance of indvidual effort in seeking to extend our membership. The Show Season furnishes a good opportunity for this, and the Hon. Editorial Secretary will be pleased to forward leaflets "Objects of the Club" to any member willing to circulate them at local Shows, etc., also to send a specimen copy of *Bird Notes* to anyone interested in foreign birds.

To make our magazine fully representative we need articles on Parrots, Parrakeets and Lories. Will some member or members making a speciality of these groups kindly supply such?

Wesley T. Page,
Hon. Editorial Secretary.

Post Mortem Reports.

(*Vide Rules*).

Red Crested Cardinal. (Mrs. M. E. Baker.) Cause of death: Enteritis (probably bacterial), complicated with pneumonia. It was a hen bird.

Hen Budgerigar. (Miss Hollins.) Cause of death: Fatty degeneration of the liver.

White Java. Cock. (Mrs. Brickwood.) Cause of death: Pneumo-enteritis, caused by chill.

Canary. (Mrs. L. Rogerson.) The bird had pneumonia and also an enlarged liver. Losing four, one after another, seems to indicate that the disease is of an infectious nature.

Henry Gray, M.R.C.V.S.

The Council thankfully acknowledge the following donations towards the Deficit and Illustration Fund.

	£	s.	d.
A Member	8	0	0
Bromet, Mrs. H.	1	1	0
Harvey, Hon. Lady	0	5	0
Hetley, Dr. H.	0	10	0
Keith-Murray, A. L...	0	5	0
Oakey, W.	0	5	0
O'Reilly, N. S.	0	5	0
Porteus, C.	0	5	0
Reeve, Capt. J. S.	0	5	0
Rogers, W. T.	0	10	0
Suggitt, R.	1	1	0
Ward, Hon. Mrs. Somerset	0	5	0
Wardale, H...	0	10	0
	£13	7	0

NEW MEMBERS ELECTED.

JAS. V. ELLIS, 23, Baronsmead Road, Barnes, S.W.
G. E. WESTON, 45, Cleveland Mansions, London, N.W.
HENRY SCHERREN, F.Z.S., 9, Cavendish Road, Harringay, N.
Lady EDITH DOUGLAS PENNANT, Soham House, Newmarket.
HENRY WILLFORD, Haven Street, Isle of Wight.

PROPOSED FOR ELECTION AS MEMBERS.

F. F. ANDREWS; Zoological Gardens, Regent's Park, London, N.W.
By TINNISWOOD MILLER.

The Lady KATHLEEN PILKINGTON; Chevet Park, Wakefield.
By Miss DRUMMOND.

C. H. DONALD; c/o The Alliance Bank of Simla, Ltd., Simla, Punjab, India.
By D. DEWAR.

H. W. DARRELL; Adelaide House, All Saint's Green, Norwich.
By Mrs. E. H. SIDEBOTTOM.

Mrs. R. A. D. PERREAU, 11, Douglas Crescent, Edinburgh, N.B.
By Capt. PERREAU.

Miss M. GALLOWAY, 50, Clarendon Road, Bedford.
By the Hon. Editor.

THE BIRD MARKET.

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Non-Members, three words a penny.

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Apply The Hon. EDITORIAL SECRETARY.

WANTED: Bound copies or complete sets of loose parts of Vol. I.

Apply The Hon. EDITORIAL SECRETARY.

The following are on sale for the benefit of the Illustration Fund, by the generosity of N. S. O'Reilly, Esq.: *Bird Notes*, vol. II. (bound); *Feathered Friends, Old and New*, Dr. W. T. Greene; *Notes on Cage Birds*, second series, edited by Dr. W. T. Greene; *Reports of the United Foreign Cage Bird Society* for 1892-3, 1893-4 and 1894-5 (unbound). Offers wanted.

Apply The Hon. EDITORIAL SECRETARY.

The following in perfect plumage and fit for show:—1 Long-tailed Green Glossy Starling 50/-; 1 Virginia Cardinal cock and Pope hen (hatched out 12 young this season) 60/- pair; 1 Green Glossy Starling (wing slightly damaged) 8/-. H. ARONSTEIN, 30, Grand Parade, Cork.

Pairs: Crimson-wing Parrakeets, Cockatiels, Starfinches, Shama and Zebra Finch; Cock birds: Yorkshire and Cinnamon bred Canaries, healthy and in good condition, all from out-door aviary. Particulars by letter only

Mrs. HENRY BROMET, Tadcaster.

Spice Finch × Bengalese hybrids, handsome and hardy, 5/- each or 7/6 pair. HENSTOCK, Market Place, Ashbourne, Derby.

NON-MEMBERS' ADVERTISEMENTS.

FOREIGN BIRDS: In beautiful healthy condition, from clean, well kept aviaries. Golden Oriole 25/-, European Blue Rollers 25/-, Hoopoes 20/-, cock Blackcaps 7/-, tame Shrike 7/-, young Shrikes, rough plumage, 4/-, Great Spotted Woodpeckers 10/-, Middle Spotted Woodpeckers 15/-, White Wagtails 7/-, Great Reed Warbler 15/-, Cornish Chough £5, Red-crested Cardinals 6/6, Black-throated Cardinals 5/-, American Cock Mocking Birds 30/-, Silky Cowbirds 5/-, Small Cockatoos 15/-, Large Cockatoos 25/-, Cuban Amazons 20/-, each. Rosellas 30/-, Blue Mountain Lories 35/-, White Javas 10/-, Lovebird 3/6, Green Budgerigars 5/6, Yellows 8/6, Indian Ringnecks 10/-, Bengalese 4/-, 20 kinds of small Foreign Seedeaters 2/- pair. Mealworms 1/6 1000, 5/- lb Millet Sprays 1/6 50. Ants' Eggs 1/6 lb. Dried Flies 1/6 lb. Insectovine, containing all that is good in Softbill Menu, 2/- lb, sample free. Full price list free. Visitors to Eastbourne please call.

Miss ROSEY, "Rosemary" House, Seaside Road, Eastbourne.

DORIA DE VON & Co.: Write for list of BRITISH and FOREIGN birds.—Largest importers in England.—SHOW SPECIMENS A SPECIALITY. *Address* D. DE VON, 114, Bethnal Green Road, London. *Telephone* 5489, LONDON WALL. *Telegraphic Address* OISEAUX, LONDON.

☞ When corresponding with advertizers please mention "Bird Notes."

THE SHOW SEASON.

REGULATIONS AS TO CLUB MEDALS.

MADE BY THE SHOW COMMITTEE OF THE COUNCIL.

1. All Medals shall be given for the Best Bird.
2. Members exhibiting at Shows where Club Medals are given, *must* place the initials "F.B.C." after *each* entry on the entry form, and request the Secretary to insert the same in the Show Catalogue.
3. No member shall win more than TWO Medals in one season—one silver and one bronze—or more than ONE Medal at the same Show.
4. No Medal shall be given at any Show, unless the Classification and the name of the Judge be first submitted to and approved by the Committee. Preference shall be given to Shows at which the Club's Classification is adopted and one of the Club's Judges appointed.
5. Mo Medal shall be given at any Show, where less than THREE Classes for Foreign Birds are provided, and no Silver Medal where less than SIX Classes. The Show Committee reserve the right of waiving this number at their discretion.
6. Medals given at OPEN SHOWS only. Birds in Members' Classes shall not compete.
7. No Medal shall be awarded at any Show unless at least THREE members compete.

The Show Committee have granted Medals to the following Shows. Other Shows receiving our patronage will be announced in due course.

The Committee hope that members will support Shows that receive our patronage and are announced in the Magazine.

Members are reminded that they must put F.B.C. after EACH entry, as it is not possible for a Secretary who does not know anything about our membership to give a complete list to the Judge otherwise.

ROCHDALE. Town Hall, October 23rd and 24th.
Classification for three classes for Foreign birds. One Bronze Medal. Judge, Mr. C. A. HOUSE. Schedules from Mr. J. BUTTERWORTH, 28, Smith Street, Rochdale.

MANCHESTER. October 30th and 31st.
Classification for four classes for foreign birds. One Bronze Medal. Judge Mr. G. E. WESTON. Schedules from Mr. G. W. L. LYTHGOE, 25, Stamford Street, Old Trafford, Manchester.

OCT. 15th, 1908.

The Foreign Bird Club.

NOTICES TO MEMBERS.

The feeling shown in the recent correspondence has caused the Council to decide on continuing the Magazine, for the current year at any rate, in its present bulk.

If members only fall in with the various suggestions contained in the correspondence in September issue, before the close of the present financial year, the deficit, if any, will only be a small one.

One of the most important suggestions is that of each member promising to propose a new member before the end of the present financial year; important because of the fact that it would end our only difficulty, viz. finance, and make us financially sound. We commend this matter to the careful consideration of all.

Now that the breeding season is over, will members kindly send in their records of Nesting Notes, not merely those which have been crowned with complete success, but also those only partially so; all are valuable and interesting data, and will help to keep "Our Magazine" fresh and interesting.

We want a LIVE Magazine as representing a LIVE Club; it lies with each individual member if such is to be the case; if left to a few, no matter how energetic and enthusiastic they may be, it cannot last for an indefinite period. But, by the united effort of all, the present steady increase may be more than maintained and the Foreign Bird Club and its Magazine a great and established success.

We need a permanent trophy for competition among exhibiting members, and we shall hope to have a definite proposal re same in our next issue.

Mr. H. Gray, M.R.C.V.S., has kindly promised to donate his fees from *Post mortem* direct replies to Illustration Fund.

WESLEY T. PAGE,
Hon. Editorial Secretary.

The Council thankfully acknowledge the following donations towards and Illustration Fund.

	£	s.	d.
Rev. J. C. Almond	0	10	0
Capt. G. A. Perreau	0	10	0
H. L. Sich	0	5	0
R. E. Simpson	0	5	0
H. Willford..	0	10	0

NEW MEMBERS ELECTED.

F. F. Andrews; Zoological Gardens, Regent's Park, London, N.W.
The Lady Kathleen Pilkington; Chevet Park, Wakefield.
C. H. Donald; c/o The Alliance Bank of Simla, Ltd., Simla, Punjab, India.
H. W. Darrell; Adelaide House, All Saint's Green, Norwich.
Mrs. R. A. D. Perreau, 11, Douglas Crescent, Edinburgh, N.B.
Miss M. Galloway, 50, Clarendon Road, Bedford.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.

T. H. Whittaker, The Laund, Accrington.

PROPOSED FOR ELECTION AS MEMBERS.

J. H. Sladden; 140, Denmark Road, Lowestoft.
H. Robbins; 25, Campden Hill Square, London, W.
J. Cheetham; The Hawthorns, Brighouse, Yorks.
W. B. Marmont; The Firs, Amberley, nr Stroud.
W. Goodfellow; Montrose, New Park Road, West Southbourne,
H. W. Mathias; Lucerne, Stubbington, Fareham, Hants.
J. P. Sturrock, M.D.; Midlothian and Peebles Asylum, Rosslynlee, Rosslyn Castle, N.B. *By* the Hon. Editor.
J. W. Rhodes; Roseleigh, Arnley, Leeds. *By* R. E. Simpson.
Miss M. F. McLeod; Beechcroft, Teignmouth, S. Devon. *By* Capt. G. A. Perreau.

The following Member has been removed from the Roll for non-payment of Subscription:

J. T. Hollins; Station Square, Harrogate.

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THE BIRD MARKET.

All advertisements must be prepaid and reach the Editorial Secretary by the 10th of the month.

Charge: Members' advertisements, four words a penny;
Non-Members, three words a penny.

MEMBERS' ADVERTISEMENTS.

COLOURED PLATES: The following are in stock: Vinacious Finch, Orange Flanked Parrakeet, Yellow Sparrow, Indian Roller, Tricoloured Tanager, Waxwing, Sepoy Finch, Senegal Parrot and Gouldian Finch. These can be supplied to members uncut, for framing, at 1/- each. Any others which have appeared in *Bird Notes*, can be coloured to order and supplied at the same rate.

Apply The Hon. Editorial Secretary.

WANTED: Bound copies or complete sets of loose parts of Vol. I.
Apply The Hon. Editorial Secretary.

ON SALE FOR BENEFIT OF ILLUSTRATION FUND:—*Bird Notes*, vol. II. (bound), 7/6; *Feathered Friends, Old and New*, Dr. W. T. Greene, 3/6; *Notes on Cage Birds*, series II., edited by Dr. W. T. Greene, 6/-; *Reports of the United Foreign Cage Bird Club*, 1892-3, 1893-4 and 1894-5 (unbound) 10/- the lot. All in new condition; donated by Mr. N. S. O'Reilly.

Apply The Hon. EDITORIAL SECRETARY.

For Sale:
Hen Virginian Cardinal 30/-;
Port Lincoln Parrakeet 25/-;
Adelaide Parrakeet 25/:
Cockateel, adult pair 10/-;
,, young 3/- each.
All are in outdoor aviary.

J. HUME, Hepscott, Morpeth.

For Sale—pair of Australian Crested Pigeons 15/-, have bred in garden aviary.

LEWIS, Corstorphine, Ryde,

NON-MEMBERS' ADVERTISEMENTS.

DORIA DE VON & CO.: Write for list of BRITISH and FOREIGN birds.—Largest importers in England.—SHOW SPECIMENS A SPECIALITY. *Address* D. DE VON, 114, Bethnal Green Road, London. *Telephone* 5489, LONDON WALL. *Telegraphic Address* OISEAUX, LONDON.

FOREIGN BIRDS: In beautiful healthy condition, from clean, well kept aviaries. Hoopoes 20/-, cock Blackcaps 7/-, Shrikes 4/-, Great Spotted Woodpeckers 20/-, Middle Spotted Woodpeckers 25/-, White Wagtails 7/-, Great Reed Warbler 15/-, Red-crested Cardinals 6/6, Black-throated Cardinals 5/-. American Cock Mocking Birds 30/-, Large Cockatoos 25/-, Redrumps 30/-, Rosellas 30/-, White Javas 10/-, Lovebird 3/6, Green Budgerigars 5/6, Yellows 8/6, Indian Ringnecks 10/-, Bengalese 4/-, 20 kinds of small Foreign Seedeaters 2/- pair. Mealworms 1/6 1000, 5/- lb Millet Sprays 1/6 50. Ants' Eggs 1/6 lb. Dried Flies 1/6 lb. Insectovine, containing all that is good in Softbill Menu, 1/6 lb, sample free. Full price list free. Visitors to Eastbourne please call.

Miss ROSEY, "Rosemary" House, Seaside Road, Eastbourne.

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THE SHOW SEASON.

The Show Committee have granted Medals to the following Shows, in adition to those already announced; further announcements will be made in due course.

LUTON. November 4th.

Classification for four classes for Foreign birds, One Bronze Medal. Judge, Mr. J. ROBSON. Schedules from Mr. E. CHERRY, 4, Reel Street, Luton, Beds.

MORECAMBE, (Albert Hall). Nov. 4th and 5th.

Classification for three classes for Foreign birds. One Bronze Medal. Judge, Mr. C. HOULTON. Schedules from Mr. JOHN H. IRELAND, Parliament Street, Morecambe.

PRESTON. November 13th and 14th.

Classification for five classes for Foreign birds. One Bronze Medal. Schedules from Mr. W. HEATHCOTE, 119a, Fishergate, Preston.

NOTTINGHAM. November 14th and 15th.

Classification for five classes for Foreign Birds. One Bronze Medal. Judge, Mr. G. E. WESTON. Schedules from Mr. G. E. WILKINSON, 9, Wellington Squsre, Park Side, Nottingham.

SWINDON. November 26th and 27th.

Classification for six classes for Foreign Birds. One Silver Medal. Judges, Messrs. J. ROBSON and J. FROSTICK. Schedules from Mr. E. ALLSOP, 43, Dixon Street, Swindon.

ST. HELEN'S. December 10th, 11th and 12th.

Classification for four classes for Foreign Birds. One Bronze Medal. Judge, Mr. J. F. HILLS. Schedules from Mr. A. GOODALL, 73, Corporation Street, St. Helens.

3, Swift Street,
Fulham, S.W.

S. M. TOWNSEND,
Hon. Exhibitional Sec.

CLAPHAM AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION'S SHOW.

The first annual Open Show of this Society was held on October 1st and 2nd. The Hall was well lighted, well ventilated, and was most suitable in every respect. The Show was certainly a success, was ably managed; between 600 and 700 exhibits were staged, forming a most interesting exhibition. Canaries were well represented and of excellent merit, but birds of most interest to our members would naturally be those shown in the British and Foreign Sections, and having been requested by our esteemed Editor to report on the same I here append a few notes.

BRITISH BIRDS.

GOLDFINCHES (14). 1, Maxwell; 2, Botting; 3, Prior. All well placed.

BULLFINCHES. 1, Askew; a typical British finch of fair merit.

LINNETS (16). 1, Longden; 2, Wickham; 3, Maxwell.

SISKINS, REDPOLLS or TWITES (18). 1, Howe, an excellent Meally Redpoll; 2, Botting, a nice Twite; 3, Francis, a fair Siskin.

CHAFFINCHES (10). 1, Frostick; 2, Geny and Davis; 3, Young.

BRAMBLEFINCHES (25). 1, Longden, excellent, large and well spangled bird; 2, Hurst, well-coloured, shapely specimen; 3, Carter.

GREENFINCHES (8). 1, Maxwell; 2, Prior; 3, Francis.

HAWFINCHES (8). 1, Hurst, tame, in beautiful condition; 2, Simpson, the best coloured bird we have seen of late, smaller and less steady than winner 3, Maxwell.

A.S. of BUNTINGS (7). 1, Chick, very fine Corn Bunting; 2, Maxwell, a good Cirl Bunting; 3, Sandy, richly-coloured Yellow Bunting.

A.S. of SEED-EATING BIRDS—HENS, This class of ladies contained ten birds. 1, Chick, good Siskin; 2, Hawfinch; 3, Sandy, another charmingly got up young lady. There were also Linnets, Bramblefinches, and a demure Bullie of the feminine persuasion, but not exactly a "belle."

SONG THRUSHES, BLACKBIRDS, and STARLINGS (9) 1, Price, a really good Thrush; 2, Lugg, moderate Starling; 3, Frostick, well-marked Thrush.

NIGHTINGALE or BLACKCAP (9). 1, Francis, Nightingale, splendid feather and as steady as a proverbial rock; 2, Hathaway, good Blackcap; 3, Burrows, another good "gale."

A.S. of Lark or Pipit (7). 1, Quantrell, a perfect Tree Pipit; 2, Howe, Tree Pipit, not as good colour as winner; 3, Withers Bros., another nice Pipit.

Crows (4). 1, Maxwell, Cornish Chough, very fine; 2, Maxwell, a good Magpie; 3, Quantrell, another nice Magpie

All Small Insectivorous Birds—not larger than a Wheatear (11). 1, Maxwell, perfect Yellow Wagtail; 2, same owner, Black Redstart, very fine; 3, Howe, a fair Tree Creeper. Also competed Blue-headed Wagtail, Grey Wagtail, Lesser Whitethroat and a Redstart.

All Insectivorous Birds—larger than a Wheatear. 1, Howe, Waxwing, perfect; 2, Maxwell, very fine Wryneck; 3, Francis, Hoopoe, tame and confiding. The other competitors included a Fieldfare and Red-backed Shrike in nestling plumage, shown by Mr. Vale.

FOREIGN BIRDS.

A.S. of Parrot—including all allied families. 1 & 2, Maxwell, with good specimens of Black-cheeked Love Bird (*Agapornis nigrigenis*) and Black-throated Lorikeet (*Trichoglossus nigrigularis*) neither of these have been previously exhibited. 3, Cooper, Yellow and Blue Macaw with a perfect tâil, who also exhibited a nice Black-headed Caique (*Caica melanocephala*). Barnard's Broadtail, Red-faced Lovebirds and an Adelaide Broadtail also competed.

A.S. Waxbill, Grassfinch, Whydah, and all seed-eaters (16). 1, Maxwell, a Gaboon Blue-billed Weaver (*Spermospiza guttata*)also new to me, being a crimson and black bird with whitish eyelids and a large black bill of the Grosbeak type, curiously coloured. 2, a perfect pair of Violet-eared Waxbills. 3rd, Watts, a Queen Whydah. This class also contained other good birds such as Cuban Finch (*Phonipara lepida*), White-throated Finches, Black-faced Serin, Rufous-necked and Napolean Weavers, White Javas, Aurora Finches, Pintailed and Paradise Whydahs.

Any Fruit Eating or Insect. Bird (6). 1, 2 and 3, Maxwell with the now well-known King Bird of Paradise, in perfect plumage and the attraction of the Show; Black-backed Tanager and Rufous-throated Tanager. A dull, but little known olive coloured Tanager, awkward in shape with a slender slightly curved bill, which boasts no English name as far as I know, probably *Orthogonys viridis*, it was shown by Mr. Watts, of Watford.

British and Forign Selling. 1, Maxwell, a pair of Diamond Sparrows; 2, Howe, very fine pair Rufous-tailed Grassfinches: 3, Hodgkin, Cordon Blues. A nice Hybrid Rosella x Red-rump Parrakeet was also shown, by Mr. C. Cooper, in a class provided for any variety of hybrid bird owned by members and was awarded 3rd pair.

The members classes for British Birds contained nothing of exceptional interest except a nice Wheatear and Redstart, and an extra good Winchat, 2nd in its class, shewn by Mr. Frostick. The Hybrid classes between two British birds contained Mr. Cooper's Chaffinch × Bramblefinch, Mr. Vale's Twite × Greenfinch, Mr. Gunnet's Siskin × Bulfinch, and Goldfinch × Bulfinch, and some other good birds. The class for hybrids of Canary and British Birds parentage were well filled. Mr. John Robson officiated as judge for these birds and Canaries, and the British and Foreign birds were left to my own tender mercies. Allen Silver.

POST-MORTEM EXAMINATIONS.

The conditions upon which these will be made by Mr. Hy. Gray: M.R.C.V.S., 23, Upper Phillimore Place, Kensington, W., are as follows,

(1) The birds must be sent IMMEDIATELY after death.

(2) They *must* be packed in a box.

(3) *The letter accompanying them must* NOT *be placed in the box along with the bird.*

(N.B. Unless the above conditions are complied with the package will be destroyed without examination).

(4) The letter must detail *as far as possible* all particulars as to
  (*a*) date of death,
  (*b*) length of illness,
  (*c*) symptoms of illness,
  (*d*) lodgment and feeding of birds, and
  (*e*) especially as to whether egg food or inga seed has been given.

(5) The work will be done gratuitously, and a report published in "Bird Notes," but *under no circumstances whatever will a report be sent by post unless a fee of* 2/6 *accompanies the letter and bird.* Pressure of work compels Mr. Gray to make this an invariable rule, and it applies to all members whether they are personally acquainted with him or not.

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BOUND VOLUMES OF "BIRD NOTES."

Volume I. is out of print. **See Notices to Members** (March issue).

Of Volume II. there remain only a few copies,		
to Members and Associates		10/-
to others		12/6
Volumes III., IV. & V. *with hand-coloured plates*		
to Members and Associates	each	10/6
to others	,,	15/-
,, ,, *with plates uncoloured*		
to Members and Associates	each	7/6
to others	,,	10/6
Volume VI. *with hand-coloured plates*		
to Members and Associates	each	15/-
to others	,,	20/-
,, ,, *with plates uncoloured*		
to Members and Associates	each	10/-
to others	,,	15/-

Cases for binding Vols. I., II., III., IV., V. and VI. may be had, price 1/2 each post free.

Application for Bound Volumes and cases must be made to the Publishers.

Cases for binding Vol. VI. now ready, to be obtained of the Publishers.

NOV 15th, 1908.

The Foreign Bird Club.

NOTICES TO MEMBERS.

The arrangements re competitive scheme for increasing our membership are not yet complete, the same applies to Club trophy or cups; but full details will be given in next issue.

A new feature has been introduced in this issue, viz., "THE MONTH'S ARRIVALS." May I urge all members to send us notes of any importations of uncommon birds, whether imported by the trade or privately.

We purpose introducing another feature in our next issue, viz., "NOTES ON CONTINENTAL AVICULTURE," which will be culled from the Continental press, and we trust this will prove of general interest.

The Committee desire to thank the members for their liberal response to the various appeals. May we at the same time urge that the efforts to introduce new members may be continued till our membership is at least doubled.

WESLEY T. PAGE,
Hon. Editorial Secretary.

The Council thankfully acknowledge the following donations towards the Illustration Fund.

	£	s.	d.
Miss M. E. Baker		10	0
C. Cushney		10	0
H. Gray (*Post mortem* fee)		2	6
Mrs. B. Mortimer		7	6
Lady E. Douglas Pennant		10	0
N. S. O'Reilly (Sale of 'Notes on Cage Birds,' to Mr. H. Green)		5	0
H. Westacott		5	0
	£2	10	0

POST MORTEM REPORTS (*continued*).

WHITE JAVA DOVE (hen). (Miss R. Hollins). Cause of death was exhaustion following a caseous nodular enlargement under the mucous membrane of right side of pharynx. This is a common disease of poultry, pheasants, pigeons, etc., and was formerly thought to be due to a psarosperm or coccidium which, thanks to the researches of Marx and Sticker, are now known to be only degenerative epithelial scales. These authorities and others have shewn the disease to be due to an ultravisible organism, which is so small that it cannot be seen by the highest power microscope; nor can it be cultivated on any known artificial medium.

It is very contagious. When only attacking parts that can be reached recovery may be anticipated by painting the lesions with either the tincture or glycerole of iodine, three times daily. A dessert spoonful of sulphate of iron should be given in half a gallon of water. Isolate and disinfect.

Cock RED RUMP. (Hon. Lady Harvey). Cause of death, congestion of lungs. There were hæmorrhagic spots in the substance of the cranial bones, suggesting some blood disease.

HENRY GRAY, M.R.C.V.S.

NEW MEMBERS ELECTED.

J. H. Sladden; 140, Denmark Road, Lowestoft.

H. Robbins; 25, Campden Hill Square, London, W.

J. Cheetham; The Hawthorns, Brighouse, Yorks.

W. B. Marmont; The Firs, Amberley, nr Stroud.

W. Goodfellow; Montrose, New Park Road, West Southbourne,

H. W. Mathias; Lucerne, Stubbington, Fareham, Hants.

J. P. Sturrock, M.D.; Midlothian and Peebles Asylum, Rosslynlee, Rosslyn Castle, N.B.

J. W. Rhodes; Roseleigh, Arnley, Leeds.

Miss M. F. McLeod; Beechcroft, Teignmouth, S. Devon.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS.

N. S. O'Reilly; 102, Marine Parade, Brighton.

Mrs. H. E. Dennis; St. Leonard's Park, Horsham, Sussex.

In last issue Mr. Hollins was removed from the roll—a satisfactory explanation has been given and the name is hereby reinstated as under: —

B. Hollins; 9, George Street, Hull.

PROPOSED FOR ELECTION AS MEMBERS.

J. Marshall Stocker; The Villas, Stoke-on-Trent. *By* T. R. Hadley.

Miss Mortimer; Wigmore, Holmwood, Surrey. *By* Mrs. Mortimer.

Rev. J. Mapletoft Paterson; St. John's Vicarage, Hollington, St. Leonards-on-Sea.

Mrs. G. Henderson; Moorfield, Upper Claremont, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

F. G. R. Roth; 31, West 129th Street, New York, U.S.A.

J. W. Cullen; 15, Welland Street, Leicester. *By* the Hon. Editor.

H. V. Johnson; 18, Chambres Road, Southport. *By* W. H. Foster.

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THE BIRD MARKET.

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Spice Finch × Bengalese Hybrids, handsome and hardy, 5/- each or 7/6 pair. HENSTOCK; Market Place, Ashbourne, Derby.

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FOREIGN BIRDS: In beautiful healthy condition, from clean, well kept aviaries. Great Spotted Woodpeckers 20/-, Blackcaps 5/-, Chinese Spectacle Thrush cock in song 25/-, hen 20/-, Superb Tanagers 30/- each, Californian Quail cocks 8/- each, Silky Cowbirds 6/- each, Amazon Parrots 25/-, Red-crested Cardinals 6/6, Black-throated Cardinals 5/-, Large Cockatoos 25/-, White Javas 10/-, Lovebird 3/6, Green Budgerigars 5/6, Yellows 8/6, Indian Ringnecks 10/-, Bengalese 4/-, 20 kinds of small Foreign Seedeaters 2/- pair. Mealworms 1/6 1000, 5/- lb. Millet Sprays 1/6 50. Ants' Eggs 1/6 lb. Dried Flies 1/6 lb. Insectovine, containing all that is good in Softbill Menu, 1/6 lb, sample free. Full price list free. Visitors to Eastbourne please call.

Miss ROSEY, "Rosemary" House, Seaside Road, Eastbourne.

THE SHOW SEASON

The Show Committee have granted Medals to the following Shows, in addition to those already announced; further announcements will be made in due course.

LEEDS. November 27th and 28th.
Classification for three classes for Foreign Birds One Bronze Medal. Judge, Mr. J. ROBSON. Schedules from Mr. A. WILKINS, The Gardens, Oakhurst, Moortown, Leeds.

NORWICH. November 28th and 30th.
Classification for four classes for Foreign Birds. One Bronze Medal. Judge, Mr. J. F. HILL. Schedules from Mr. R. ROLL, Dalwood, Cecil Road, Lakenham, Norwich.

L. C. B. A., Royal Horticultural Hall, WESTMINSTER. Dec. 4th and 5th.
Classification for eleven classes for Foreign Birds. Three Silver Medals. Judge, Mr. FRANK FINN. Schedules from Mr. W. H. MUGFORD, 73, Cloncurry Street, Fulham Palace Road, London, S.W.

BURTON-ON-TRENT. December 5th.
Classification for three classes for Foreign Birds. One Bronze Medal. Judge, Mr. R. J. HOWE. Schedules from Mr. S. A. DICKEN, New Inn, Station Street, Burton-on-Trent.

GATESHEAD. December 11th and 12th.
Classification for four classes for Foreign Birds. One Bronze Medal. Judge, Mr. T. HEATH. Schedules from Mr. T. TAYLOR, 68, Edward Street, Gateshead.

Club Medals: the following results are to hand.

ROCHDALE.	No medal awarded, only two qualified F.B.C. members competing.
MANCHESTER.	S. **Beaty**, Bronze Medal.
LUTON.	Mrs. **Warren Vernon**, Bronze Medal with Green Mexican Jay.

3, Swift Street,
Fulham, S.W.

S. M. **Townsend**,
Hon. Exhibitional Sec.

SHOW REPORT.

LUTON.—A highly successful Show was held on November 4th at the Corn Exchange, Luton. The Hall was well lighted, warm and spacious, so that not merely were the birds well staged, but could be viewed in comfort. The management left nothing to be desired and the officials must be congratulated upon a most successful Show. Mr. J. Robson judged, and his awards in the Foreign Bird Classes came in for much adverse criticism.

Undoubtedly the centre of attraction was the Foreign Section.

It is rarely one meets such an array of "Our Favourites" at a country show, which speaks well for the F B.C., under whose Patronage it was held. A most useful feature was that, soon after the judging was finished, every Foreign Bird was labelled with a neat typed tickets stating the species and its native country. Mr. J. C. W. Meadows was responsible for this

Passing mention must be made of the following: a Gorgeted Finch, exhibited by Mrs. Warren Vernon, similar to a Cardinal but a soft grey colour all over, with the exception of a white patch on the throat, underparts, and a rufous tint near the vent. Also a beautiful pair of Scaly-crowned Finches exhibited by Miss Galloway, which were quite new to me.

OPEN CLASSES.

BRITISH

Goldfinch and Bullfinch. 1. S H. Mays, very fine Goldfinch; 2, I. Lee, Bullfinch very rich colour; 3, Andrews, good Goldfinch.

A O.V. Hardbill. 1 and 2, S H. Mays, Hawfinch and Linnet; 3, S. H. Cocks, Bramblefinch.

A.V Softbill. 1, S H. Cocks, Tree Creeper; 2, S. H. Mays, Gold-crested Wren; 3, G. Rickets, very fine Ouzel.

FOREIGN.

Waxbills, etc, 1, F. Howe, Green Avadavat; 2, Miss E. Galloway, Blue-breasted Waxbills, 3, J. C. W. Meadows, Cordon Bleus; 4, F. Howe, Gold-breasted Waxbills; VHC, Meadows; HC, Miss Galloway.

A.O.V. Seedeaters 1 and 3, Miss E. Galloway. Parrot and Scaly-crowned Finches; 2, Mrs W. Vernon, Gorgeted Finch. All three exhibits in finest condition. 4, Tindus, Long-tailed Grassfinches; VHC, Miss Hopwood; HC, Mrs. Galloway; C. F. Howe. Good Black-faced Serin and Queen Whydah also exhibited.

Insectivorous, etc. 1, Smith and Son, Sulphur-breasted Toucan, fair condition; 2 and F.B.C. medal, Mrs W. Vernon, Mexican Green Jay. finest condition; 3, R. J. Watts, Olivaceous Tanager, should have been higher.

RADIUS CLASSES.

Goldfinch and **Bullfinch**. 1, Quantrel and Sears, Goldfinch; 2 and S for best Bullfinch, Mrs. W. Vernon; 3, J. Goodall, Bullfinch.

Greenfinch. 1, Quantrel and Sears; 2, A. B. Tucker; 3, Smith and Son.

Linnet. 1, Quantrel and Sears; 2, J. C. Wilmot; 3. J Goodall.

A O.V. Hardbill. 1, Smith and Son, Hawfinch; 2, J. Goodall, Yellow-hammer; 3, F. P. Davill, Bramblefinch.

A.V. Softbill. 1 and 2, Smith and Son, good Yellow Wagtail and Thrush; 3, W. A. Elwig, Wheatear.

A.V. Foreigners. 1, Smith and Son, Green-billed Toucan; 2 and 3, R. J Watts Lineolated Parrakeet and Superb Tanager, the latter very fine. E.V.W. and R.J W.

DEC 15th, 1908.

The Foreign Bird Club.

NOTICES TO MEMBERS.

IMPORTANT. The current issue brings us within measureable distance of the end of the Vol. and also the Club year. It therefore becomes necessary to call the attention of members to the fact that voting papers for the election of Council and such offices as become vacant annually, *must be issued with the January number.* Will therefore any member willing to serve on the Council kindly communicate with me not later than January 1st, 1909.

With great pleasure I acknowledge the practical sympathy and help one and all have given me in the effort to make "Our Magazine" worthy the Club and public support. I am compelled, however, to draw attention to the fact that the amount asked for has not yet been made up; will members kindly bear this in mind and so leave the management unfettered by any probable incubus.

I have to thank many for kindly responding to the appeal for copy and with much satisfaction I find the "Editorial" crowded out this month.

The year being too far advanced for the competitive schemes and Club cups or trophies to affect the current year, the matter has been left over for final settlement till the next Council Meeting early in 1909.

Continental Notes will appear in next issue.

Wesley T. Page,
Hon. Editorial Secretary.

The Council thankfully acknowledge the following donation towards the Illustration Fund.

	s.	d.
H. Gray (*Post mortem* fee)	2	6

NEW MEMBERS ELECTED.

J. Marshall Stocker; The Villas, Stoke-on-Trent.
Miss Mortimer; Wigmore, Holmwood, Surrey.
Mrs. G. Henderson; Moorfield, Upper Claremont, Newcastle-on-Tyne.
Rev. J. Mapletoft Paterson; St. John's Vicarage, Hollington, St Leonards-on-Sea.
F. G. R. Roth; 31, West 129th Street, New York, U.S.A.
J. W. Cullen; 15, Welland Steeet, Leicester.
H. V. Johnson; 18, Chambers Road, Southport.

PROPOSED FOR ELECTION AS MEMBERS.

H. Botting; "Mountside," Harrow Road, Dorking. *by* W. E. Teschemaker.
J. Walsh; 159, Dukes Row, Blackburn, Lancs. *by* W. Pyke.
P. Victor Williams; Hinstock Hall, Market Drayton, Shropshire. *by* Capt. G. A. Perreau.
C. T. Maxwell; Southlawn, 24, Acre Lane, Brixton, London, S.W. *by* the Hon. Editor.
W. S. Smith; 24, Jubilee Street, Luton, Beds. *by* Mrs. E. Warren Vernon.
W. R. Temple; Ormonde, Datchet, Bucks. *by* S. M. Townsend.

CORRECTION.

J. W. CULLEN, was proposed by Mr. W. OAKEY, and not by the *Hon. Editor* as appeared in last issue.

FRED. W. RHODES; Roseleigh, Armley, Leeds.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.

J. MACARTHUR, 19, Wharton Road, Peckham Rye, London, S.E.

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THE BIRD MARKET.

All advertisements must be prepaid and reach the Editorial Secretary by the 10th of the month.

Charge: Members' advertisements, four words a penny;

Non-Members, three words a penny.

MEMBERS' ADVERTISEMENTS

COLOURED PLATES: The following are in stock: Vinacious Finch, Orange Flanked Parrakeet, Yellow Sparrow, Indian Roller, Tricoloured Tanager, Waxwing, Sepoy Finch, Senegal Parrot and Gouldian Finch. These can be supplied to members uncut, for framing, at 1/- each. Any others which have appeared in *Bird Notes*, can be coloured to order and supplied at the same rate. *Apply* The Hon. EDITORIAL SECRETARY.

WANTED: Bound copies or complete sets of loose parts of Vol. I. *Apply* The HON. EDITORIAL SECRETARY.

ON SALE FOR BENEFIT OF ILLUSTRATION FUND:—*Bird Notes*, vol. II. (bound), 7/6; *Feathered Friends, Old and New*, Dr. W. T. Greene, 2/6; *Reports of the United Foreign Cage Bird Club*, 1892-3, 1893-4 and 1894-5 (unbound) 10/- the lot. All in new condition; donated by Mr. N. S. O'Reilly. Offers invited. *Apply* The Hon. EDITORIAL SECRETARY.

For Sale.—Three outdoor aviary-bred Hen Redrumps, April hatched, perfect condition, 11/- each or 30/- the lot; also three Alexandrines, hatched February, 10/- each or offers.

W. B. MARMONT, The Firs, Amberley, Stroud.

Chinese Painted Quails 27/6 pair; acclimatised pair Green Singing Finches 8/6; Chestnut Finches 15/-; Aviary moulted Orange Bishop, in colour, 8/-; Bullfinch, pipes two tunes perfectly, feeds from fingers, 4 guineas.

HENRY ROBBINS; 25, Campden Square, London, W.

NON-MEMBERS' ADVERTISEMENTS.

DE VON & Co.: Write for list of BRITISH and FOREIGN birds.—Largest importers in England.—SHOW SPECIMENS A SPECIALITY. *Address* D. DE VON, 114, Bethnal Green Road, London. *Telephone* 5489, LONDON WALL. *Telegraphic Address* OISEAUX, LONDON.

Superb Tanagers 20/-, Chinese Spectacle Thrush 20/-, Cardinals, Red Crested 5/-, Black-Throated 5/-, Adult breeding Budgerigars, selected pairs 6/6, Hens 3/6, Yellows 8/6 pair, Cockatiels, English, 13/- pair, Madagascar Lovebirds 3/6 pair, Moustache Parrakeets 9/- pair, White Javas 8/6 pair, cock California Quail 8/-, Silky Cowbird 6/- each, English Zebra Finches 6/6 pair, small Foreigners from 2/- pair, Siberian Pine Grosbeaks, very large, 15/- each, cock Blackcap, outdoors, 5/-, cock Hawfinch 6/-, British Finches from 1/- pair

Small pet animals: Squirrels, Monkeys, Kittens, Dogs, Puppies, etc.

Mealworms 1/6 1000, 5/- lb., 7/- quart. Husks for Budgerigars 5d. each, 3/6 dozen. Ants' eggs, Flies, Egg and all other Foods. "Insectovine" high-class Softbill Food, 1/6 lb. "Larkine" Softbill Food, 6d. lb. "Frusectovine," finest food for Tanagers, 1/6 lb.

Millet Sprays, 50 for 1/6, Full price list free.

Miss ALICE ROSEY, "Rosemary" House, Seaside Road, Eastbourne.

THE SHOW SEASON.

The Show Committee have granted a Medal to the following Show, in addition to those already announced.

DUDLEY, January 20th and 21st.
Classification for three classes for Foreign Birds One Bronze Medal. Judge, Mr. J. ROBSON. Schedules from Mr. J. G. Leech, Norwich Villa, King Street, Dudley, Worcestershire.

3, Swift Street,
Fulham, S.W.

S. M. TOWNSEND,
Hon. Exhibitional Sec.

SHOW REPORTS.

CAMBRIDGE SHOW.

A very successful and all round Show, covering Fur and Feather, was held at the Corn Exchange, on November 25th and 26th, by the Cambridge Ornithological Society, but *Bird Notes* readers are only interested in the Foreign Bird Section. I quote the following from the *Cambridge Express*.

"The exhibition of Cage Birds was an exceedingly good one. Mrs. Anningson, of "Cambridge, had an exceedingly fine collection of birds, several being rare specimens. Two "especially—a Banksian Cockatoo* and an All Blue Macaw†—are so rare that it is stated as "being doubtful if their doubles can be found in any collection in the World. An offer of "£500 was recently declined for one of these birds."

There were four classes for Foreign Birds, three open and one local, which were judged by Mr. H. T. T. Camps, F.Z.S.

MACAW OR COCKATOO, single—10. 1, 2, VHC,, HC, and C, Mrs. C. L. Anningson, very rare Banksian Cockatoo, Salmon-crested Cockatoo, Goffin's Cockatoo, Scarlet and Blue Macaw, and Bare-eyed Cockatoo, in the order given, all in the best of condition—a grand team; 3, A. Stubbing's Macaw. Mrs. Anningson also exhibited a fine specimen of the All Blue Macaw.

PARROTS, LORIKEETS, ETC.—13. 1, 2, VHC, HC, and C, Mrs. C. L. Anningson, Eclectus Parrot, Jardin's Parrot, Senegal Parrot, Blue Mountain Lorikeet and Cuban Amazon, all in perfect condition; 3, W. B. Chivers; VHC, C. H. Row. Mrs. Anningson also exhibited exquisite specimens of Double-fronted Amazon, and Cashmere and Burmah Parrakeets.

A.O.V. NOT LARGER THAN A CARDINAL.—11. 1, 3, and C, Mrs. C. L. Anningson, Scarlet Tanager, Long-tailed Whydah and White Java Sparrows, in the order given; 2, and HC, C. H. Row; VHC, J R Hadley, Bicheno Finches. Also exhibited Cape Doves, Yellow Budgerigars, Archbishop Tanager, Tri-coloured Nuns and Red-faced Lovebirds.

FOREIGN LOCAL.—13. 1, 3, VHC, HC, and C, Mrs. C. L. Anningson, Gold-fronted Fruitsucker, pair Cuban Amazons, Green Glossy Starling, pair Eclectus Parrots and Pekin Robin; 2, Mrs. Punch, King Parrakeet. Also exhibited Blue-fronted Amazon, Green Budgerigars, Madagascar Lovebirds, Shaft-tailed Whydah, Rosella Parrakeet and Rosella Cockatoo.

Compiled by W.T.P.

L.C.B.A. SHOW.

This Show was a great success, and the L.C.B. Association are to be congratulated on receiving an entry containing a greater number of rarities and first appearances than has been the case in recent years, and its 20th Exhibition must stand out as unique in this respect. Space will not permit any description of the exhibits, but some of the more noteable we shall hope to describe in our next issue.

The following are all new to the Show Bench this season, though one or two may have appeared in the provinces: Black-cheeked Lovebird; Black-throated Lorikeet; Black-winged Lory; Gaboon Weaver; Spotted Emerald Tanager‡; Red-throated Tanager; Black-throated Tanager; Mexican Trogan; White Spotted Laughing Thrushes; Plumbeous Redstart; and Giant Barbet§.

Time has not permitted any search, so it is just possible one or more may have appeared in the "long ago." Visitors to the Zoo will be familiar with several of the above species.

The following are very uncommon, only appearing at rare intervals, and some have not been exhibited for many years: Sun Conure; Elegant Grass Parrakeet; Hawk-headed Caique: Rufous-bellied Niltava; Blue-winged Siva; and White-capped Redstart.

Mr. F. Finn judged. There was the curiously annomoly of the same species receiving awards in two classes! The exhibits must have been difficult indeed to separate—the judge's awards were well received.

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* † ‡ § The London Zoo possess these species. W T.P.

FOREIGN BIRD SECTION.

Class 151. BUDGERIGARS AND A.S. OF LOVEBIRDS, ETC.—9. 1, C. T. Maxwell, Black-cheeked Lovebird; 2 and 3, Mrs. K. L. Miller, Guiana and Rosey-faced Lovebirds; 4, R. J. Watts, Red-faced Lovebirds; VHC, W. Cook, Budgerigars. Also exhibited Madagascar and Blue-winged Lovebirds.

Class 152. A.S. PARRAKEETS, LORIES AND LORIKEETS, ETC.—11. 1 and 3, C. T. Maxwell, Black-throated Lorikeet and Elegant Grass Parrakeet, a very rare couple in exquisite condition; 2, O. Millsum, very rare Black-winged Lory, in lovely order; VHC, HC, and C, Mrs. K. Leslie Miller, Sun Conure (rare), Many-coloured Parrakeets and Swainson's Lorikeet (very rich colour), a very fine trio. Also exhibited Pennant and Barnard Parrakeet and varied Lorikeet.

Class 154. A.O.S. PARROTS, COCKATOOS AND MACAWS—9. 1, T. Miller, Hawk-headed Caique, very uncommon and interesting exhibit; 2, W. Cook, nice pair of Red-vented Parrots; 3, Mrs. C. Cooper, good Black-headed Caique; 4, J. Tyson, very handsome Grey Parrot; VHC, Mrs. K. Leslie Miller, another good Red-vented Parrot. Quite an interesting feature of this class was the locquacity of many of the exhibits.

Class 154. COMMON WAXBILLS, AVADAVATS, MANNIKINS, ETC.—6. 1, 2, 3 and 4, F. Howe, Green Avadavat, quite the best I have ever seen; Zebra Waxbills, St. Helena Waxbills and Spice Finches; a beautiful team of so-called common species. VHC., S. M. Townsend, Zebra Waxbills; HC., C. R. Tyson, Grey Waxbill. A disappointing class as to numbers, but all the exhibits in finest condition. Note: Exhibitors cannot expect to get the classification for freely imported species extended, if they do not support such classes as already exist.

Class 155. A.S. WAXBILLS, FIREFINCHES, MANNIKINS, ETC.—9. 1, HC and C, Mrs K. L. Miller, lovely Painted Finch. good pair Crimson Finches and nice Melba Finch; 2 and 3, C. T. Maxwell, Violet-eared Waxbill and Melba Finches, positions should have been reversed; 4, W. Cook, Vinaceous Firefinch; VHC, S. M. Townsend, richly coloured Crimson Finch. Also exhibited nice Sydney Waxbill.

Class 156. A.S. GRASSFINCHES, WEAVERS, WHYDAHS, ETC.—6. 1 & 2, C. T. Maxwell, Gaboon Weaver (a beautiful and uncommon exhibit) and Painted Finches; 3, Mrs E. Galloway, Scaly-crowned Finches, in exquisite condition; VHC, M. B. Hodgkins, Pintail Nonpareil.

Class 157. A.S. GROSBEAKS, TRUE FINCHES, ETC.—14. 1, Mrs E. Galloway, Black-faced Serin, in perfect condition and a lovely species; 2 and 3, S. M. Townsend, Cape Rock Bunting and Gorgeted Finch; 4, C. T. Maxwell, Cuba Finch; VHC, W. Cook, Nonpariel Bunting; HC, F. Howe, Green Cardinal, appeared to be a colour fed specimen Also exhibited Cuba and Olive Cuba Finches, Lavender-backed Finch, Pileated Bunting and Hooded Siskin.

Class 158. A.S. TANAGERS.—15. 1, 2, 4 and HC, C. T. Maxwell, Rufous-throated, Black-throated, Emerald-Spotted and Maroon Tanagers, an exquisite team, the first three being I believe all first appearances on the Show bench. 3 & S, W. R. Pickles, exquisite Maroon Tanager; VHC, (2) and HC, S. M. Townsend, Magpie and Archbishop Tanager and veteran White-capped Tanager; VHC, Mrs K. L. Miller and HC, J. Dewhurst, Superb Tanagers. Also exhibited Tricolour and Olivaceous Tanagers, the latter wrong classed; it is more probably the Olive Bulbul (*Iole virescens*).

Class 159. A.S. of SUGAR BIRDS, HONEYEATERS, ETC.—7. 1 & 4, S. M. Townsend, exquisite pair of Black-headed Sugar Birds and Gold-fronted Green Bulbul; 2, O. Millsum, another fine Black-headed Sugar Bird; 3, Mrs E. Galloway, Blue Sugar Bird, nice colour but looking rather soft; VHC, T. Miller, Malabar Green Bulbul; HC, Mrs B. W. Hodgkin, Gold-fronted Green Bulbul. Also exhibited Red-whiskered Bulbul.

Class 160. A O. SPECIES.—17. 1, 3, VHC and HC, C. T. Maxwell, Mexican Trogan, King Bird of Paradise, Blue-bellied Niltava and Blue-winged Siva, a grand team of interesting, rare, or very uncommon exhibits; 2, S. M. Townsend, Giant Barbet in grand feather; 4, O. Millsum, very rare White Spotted Thrushes (*Ianthocinla ocellata*) not yet steady; VHC, Capt. Perreau, rare Plumbeous Redstart; Mrs E. Warren Vernon, Green Mexican Jay, in exquisite condition and lovely colour; HC, W. Cook, Brazilian Green Jay; C, Mrs E. Galloway and O. Puck with Dayal Bird and Shama respectively. Also exhibited Rosy Pastors, Amber-shouldered Troupials and Hill Mynahs. Always an interesting class, but unique on this occasion for the number of rarities and first appearances

F.B.C. MEMBERS' SPECIALS.

Silver Medal. Mr. O. Millsum, for his Black-winged Lory. Mr. M., however, not being eligible, having won the medal at Swindon, it passes to Mr. T. Miller for his Hawk-headed Caique.

,, ,, Mrs K. Leslie Miller for her Painted Finch.

,, ,, Mr. S. M. Townsend for his Black-headed Sugar Birds.

Silver Model of Tanager, presented by Mrs. K. Leslie Miller. Mr. W. R. Pickles for his Maroon Tanager.

F.B.C. OPEN SPECIALS.

Silver Medal, presented by Mr. T. Miller, for most points. *Result not yet to hand.*
Half Guinea, ,, ,, Mr. W. T. Page. F. Howe, with his Green Avadavat.

W. T. P.

MEDAL RESULTS TO HAND AS UNDER:—

MORECAMBE.—Not awarded, only two members competed.
PRESTON.—Mr. Pickles for his Maroon Tanager.
NOTTINGHAM.—Not awarded, only two members competed.
SWINDON.—Mr Millsum.
NORWICH.—Mr. Row.

JAN. 15th, 1909.

The Foreign Bird Club.

NOTICES TO MEMBERS.

IMPORTANT. Annual Election of Council—Voting papers are distributed with this issue; it is specially urged that each member will record their vote and send same to the Scrutineer not later than Jan. 25th.

The next issue will complete the volume, it will probably be a little late owing to the preparation of indices. May I also at this time remind members, that the amount asked for on behalf of the illustration fund has not yet been reached, and urge that all will send something, as I am sure all must agree that the volume completed is worth much more than the amount of the annual subscription, and also that the three members who have guaranteed any possible deficit of not more than £5 each, may be called upon to find as little as possible.

I would draw attention to the fact that the L. P. O. S. Show is the Society's Jubilee—the classification is ample and the prize-money is increased; may I be permitted to urge that our members send a good entry, and also remind them that entries definitely close on January 23rd.

Several cases of Dec. issue going astray in post have occurred; the publishers are in communication with the post office on the subject, and the missing copies if not already to hand, will be put through at once.

WESLEY T. PAGE,
Hon. Editorial Secretary.

POST MORTEM REPORTS (*continued*).

CANARY. (J. D.) Acute Enteritis. The kidneys were in a gelatinous condition.

YOUNG GOULDIAN FINCH. (Mrs. L. T. Hetley). Cause of death, hæmmorrhagic enteritis and jaundice. It is A septicæmia, having its localization in the intestine. The "fits" or convulsions are often symptomatic of blood infection which may or may not be of the contagious type. Very often the loss of power in the limbs is due to want of exercise of the wings, and thus the airsacs which communicate with the lungs on the one hand, and many of the bones on the other, do not come into play to carry out their functions properly. I have unwittingly induced this in young Budgerigars by clipping their wings as soon as they have left the nest, which almost brings on loss of power in the legs, the posterior surface of the tarso-metatarsi resting on the ground. Vichy water may be tried mixed with equal parts of plain water and used instead of the ordinary drinking water.

HENRY GRAY, M.R.C.V.S.

The Council thankfully acknowledge the following donation towards the Illustration Fund.

	s.	d.
H. Gray (*Post mortem* fee)	2	6
Dr. Easton Scott	10	0

NEW MEMBERS ELECTED.

H. Botting; "Mountside," Harrow Road, Dorking.
J. Walsh; 159, Dukes Row, Blackburn, Lancs.
P. Victor Williams; Hinstock Hall, Market Drayton, Shropshire.
C. T. Maxwell; Southlawn, 24, Acre Lane, Brixton, London, S.W.
W. S. Smith; 24, Jubilee Street, Luton, Beds.
W. R. Temple; Ormonde, Datchet, Bucks.

PROPOSED FOR ELECTION AS MEMBERS.

Mrs. B. Croysdale; Hawke House, Sunbury-on-Thames.
by Tinniswood Miller.
Miss E. M. Foster; 35, High Street, Huntingdon.
by H. T. T. Camps.
M. J. Flannery; Barrack Street, Nenagh, co. Tipperary, Ireland.
by the Hon. Editor.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS.

Dr. J. Easton Scott; Birdhurst, Woodcote Road, Wallington, Surrey.
D. Dewar, F.Z.S., I.C.S.; 38, Abbey Road, St. John's Wood, London, N.W.
N. S. O'Reilly; 81, Marine Parade, Brighton.
H. L. Sich; Taurus Lodge, 2, West Marina, Bexhill-on-Sea.
G. B. Wright; c/o G. Heath, Church Hill, Handsworth, Birmingham.

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THE BIRD MARKET.

All advertisements must be prepaid and reach the Editorial Secretary by the 10th of the month.

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Non-Members, three words a penny.

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Apply The Hon. Editorial Secretary.

Mrs. Miller has pair of Crimson Finches for sale, healthy, acclimatised and in perfect plumage. 27, Belgrave Road, S.W.

Subscriber would exchange cock Yellow Budgerigars, bred in garden aviary, for similar birds. Wanted—Hen Cockateel and pair of Diamond Doves. E. D. Fairview; Taplow.

Very fine Hawk-headed Parrot for sale, healthy, acclimatised, tame and 1st prize winner. T. Miller; 27, Belgrave Road, S.W.

For sale—Rare Black-cheeked Lovebirds, perfect health guaranteed, 70/- pair. Millsum; Regent Street, Swindon.

Black-cheeked Lovebirds, pair for disposal.
Henry Robbins; 25, Campden Hill Square, London, W.

Advertiser. arriving from South Africa early in February will have, among others, a few only of the following birds for disposal, viz.:—Great-tailed Whydahs (*Chera Procne*), full plumage, cocks 30/-; Red-headed Finches (*Amadina erythrocephala*) 15/- pair; Alarios, cocks 8/-. pairs 12/-; Dufresne's Waxbills 20/- pair; Golden-breasted Buntings (*Emberiza flaviventris*) 30/- pair; Orange-breasted Sunbird (*Nectarinia violacea*) one young bird only, sex unknown, £3. A list of birds collected in the meantime will be sent to anyone requiring same, and all letters answered on arrival.
H. E. Bliss, "The Croft," Wallingford, Berks.

Cage-moulted exhibition cocks: Superb Tanager 30/-; Scarlet ditto 25/-, perfect plumage and condition, both have won; another Scarlet not quite moulted 17/6; pair acclimatized Green Singing Finches 10/6; also Norwich Canaries. Would consider other good foreigners in exchange. Gouldians wanted. Creasey, 48, Albert Grove, Longsight, Manchester.

NON-MEMBERS' ADVERTISEMENTS.

De Von & Co.: Write for list of British and Foreign birds.— Largest importers in England. — Show Specimens a speciality. *Address* D. De Von, 114, Bethnal Green Road, London. *Telephone* 5489, London Wall. *Telegraphic Address* Oiseaux, London.

Bohemian Waxwings 40/- pair, German hand-reared, reed taught, piping Bullfinches £3 each, piping two tunes, Snow Buntings 10/- pair, Chinese Spectacle Thrush 20/-, Cardinals, Red Crested 5/-, Black-Throated 5/-, Adult breeding Budgerigars, selected pairs 6/6, Hens 3/6, Yellows 8/6 pair, Madagascar Lovebirds 3/6 pair, Moustache Parrakeets 9/- pair, White Javas 8/6 pair, cock California Quail 8/-, Silky Cowbird 6/- each, small Foreigners from 2/- pair, Siberian Pine Grosbeaks, very large, 15/- each, cock Hawfinch 6/-, British Finches from 1/-'pair

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Millet Sprays, 50 for 1/6, Full price list free.
Miss Alice Rosey, "Rosemary" House, Seaside Road, Eastbourne.

THE SHOW SEASON.

CRYSTAL PALACE SHOW. Medals have been granted to the Jubilee Palace Show. This is the last Show of the season, and the Show Committee hope that all exhibitors will try and send some entries. As this is the Jubilee Show the prize money is to be increased. Entries close January 23rd. Mr. Frank Finn has kindly presented a copy of his interesting book, "Pets, and how to keep them," to be won by a member for the best small foreign or insectivorous or fruit eating bird.

CRYSTAL PALACE, February 5th to 9th.
Classification for ten classes for Foreign Birds. Two Silver Medals. Judges, Messrs. Camps and Russell Humphrys. Schedules from Mr. W. J. Ramsden, 11, Josephine Avenue, Brixton, London, S.W.

3, Swift Street,
Fulham, S.W.

S. M. Townsend,
Hon. Exhibitional Sec.

SHOW REPORTS.

BURTON-ON-TRENT CAGE BIRD SOCIETY.

The second Annual Show of this Society was quite a success, and British and Foreign Classes received a fair number of entries. There were four classes for Foreigners, which received twenty-five entries. Mr. R. J. Howe judged the Foreign classes.

A.S. Parrot—7. 1, 2, 3, T. R. Hadley, Tui Parrakeets, Blue Bonnet Parrakeet and Blue-fronted Amazon, in the order named, a well-conditioned and handsome trio; 3, C. Cushney, good Port Lincoln Parrakeet; VHC, Metcalf; HC, Mrs C. Tresise, Grey Parrot; C, Mrs J. Duncan, Budgerigar.

A.S. Seed-eating Finch-like Birds—8. 1, and HC, Miss M. Galloway. very fine Parrot Finches and Rufous-backed Mannikins; 2, J. E. Garton, Japanese Hawfinch; 3, P. V. Williams, Rufous-backed Mannikin; 4, Mrs J. Duncan, Parson Finch; VHC, T. R. Hadley, Bicheno Finches; C, R. Benson, Zebra Finch.

A O. Species—5 1, 2, 3, T. R. Hadley, Magpie and Archbishop Tanagers and Peaceful Doves, an interesting and handsome trio; VHC, E. Hingley, Toucan; HC, H. E. Garton, Pekin Robins.

Foreign Selling—5. 1, P. V. Williams, Diamond Sparrow; 2, and HC, T. R. Hadley, Long-tailed Grassfinches and Red-rump Parrakeet; 3, W. H. Freeman, Long-tailed Grassfinches.

F.B.C Medal. T. R. Hadley, pair of Tui Parrakeets.

◆

POST-MORTEM EXAMINATIONS.

The conditions upon which these will be made by Mr. Hy. Gray: M.R.C.V.S., 23, Upper Phillimore Place, Kensington, W., are as follows,

(1) The birds must be sent IMMEDIATELY after death.
(2) They *must* be packed in a box.
(3) *The letter accompanying them must* NOT *be placed in the box along with the bird.*

(N.B. Unless the above conditions are complied with the package will be destroyed without examination).

(4) The letter must detail *as far as possible* all particulars as to
    (*a*) date of death,
    (*b*) length of illness,
    (*c*) symptoms of illness,
    (*d*) lodgment and feeding of birds, and
    (*e*) especially as to whether egg food or inga seed has been given.
(5) The work will be done gratuitously, and a report published in "Bird Notes," but *under no circumstances whatever will a report be sent by post unless a fee of* 2/6 *accompanies the letter and bird.* Pressure of work compels Mr. Gray to make this an invariable rule, and it applies to all members whether they are personally acquainted with him or not.

FEB. 15th, 1909.

The Foreign Bird Club.

NOTICES TO MEMBERS.

IMPORTANT.—Members are reminded that subscriptions become due on March 1st. It is requested that these be promptly remitted in order not to unduly encroach on the time of the Honorary Officials, or the funds of the Club.

THE MAGAZINE.—The present issue completes Volume VII., and we feel sure all will be agreed that it is one of the best yet issued and fully worth its cost, even though this be large in comparison with the income of the Club. The Council congratulate and thank the members of the Club—it is only the response of so many to the appeal for copy that we have been able to issue and complete so varied and interesting a volume as the present. We feel assured that similar support will be given and interest taken in the coming volume, to the end that it may surpass any yet issued.

ILLUSTRATION FUND.—May we ask that all promises to this fund for 1908-9 financial year may be remitted as early as possible, so that the year's accounts may be closed with as little delay as possible. May we also ask that all who can will send a donation to this fund so that our guarantors may be called upon to find as small a sum as possible. *No adverse balance will be carried forward.*

SHOW REPORTS.—In previous years only London Shows have been noted in the Club Journal, this caused much dissatisfaction—a desire was also expressed that an award report should also be published. To meet the wishes of our members all reports were relegated to the Inset and award reports published. Now the London members, or some of them, are, we understand, dissatisfied at not getting a descriptive commentary of the members' birds at the principal shows in the body of the Magazine. We shall be very pleased to insert such reports in the Magazine, PROVIDING SUCH ARE SENT IN, not merely of London Shows, but also of country Shows as well; the award reports must continue as at present in the Inset. The Editor wishes it to be clearly understood that the previous reports in the body of the Magazine have been written by himself, but that the work of keeping the Magazine up to its present standard has so increased, that he has found it impossible to do this with the late L.C.B.A. Show, and fears he cannot write such a description re the recent Crystal Palace Show (L.P.O.S.) Thus it will be seen that it rests with the members, as it must be clearly understood that however willing the Editor may be, there is a limit to what one individual can accomplish, who has also his daily business duties to perform.

THANKS.—Our best thanks are due to Mr. Henstock for valuable assistance with the indices; to Mr. Gray for his valuable work as Hon. Veterinary Surgeon, and to all the Officers and others, who have in any way contributed to the success of the Volume just completed.

PROSPECTS OF THE CLUB.—These certainly are excellent; the steady and continued growth of the Club, must be a source of great satisfaction to all interested in its welfare; and by the continued interest and united co-operation of all, this will be maintained, and in the near future our one difficulty, FINANCE, will finally disappear.

ELECTION OF COUNCIL.—The Hon. Scrutineer's Report appears below, from which it will be seen that the present Council has been re-elected *en masse*.

WESLEY T. PAGE,
Hon. Editorial Secretary.

ELECTION OF COUNCIL, 1909.

Forty-six voting papers received. 454 qualified votes recorded.
One disqualified, unsigned.

(1)	Gray, H., M.R.C.V.S.	41
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(11)	Chaplain, W. E.	26
(12)	Henstock, J H.	26
	The above are elected.	
	Mathias, H. W...	24
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R. SUGGITT, *Scrutineer.*

CHANGES OF ADDRESS.

J. ACUTT; Goodrest, Manor Road, New Melton, Hants.
Capt. G. A. PERREAU; 2/4 Gurkha Rifles, Bakloh, Punjab, India.
H. E. BLISS; The Croft, Wallingford, Berks.

TRANSFERRED FROM ASSOCIATE TO MEMBER.

Capt. J. S. REEVE; Leadenham House, Lincoln.

NEW MEMBERS ELECTED.

Mrs. B. CROYSDALE; Hawke House, Sunbury-on-Thames.
Miss E. M. FOSTER; 35, High Street, Huntingdon.
M. J. FLANNERY; Barrack Street, Nenagh, co. Tipperary, Ireland.

PROPOSED FOR ELECTION AS MEMBERS.

The Countess of Suffolk and Berkshire; Charlton Park, Malmesbury.
by the Hon. and Rev. Canon Dutton.

Mrs. C. A. Longdon; Arreton, Epson Road, Guildford.
by the Hon. Mary C. Hawke.

Paul Vollmar; 68, Fenchurch Street, London, E.C.
R. L. Crisp; 58, Elm Park Road, Chelsea, London, S.W.
J. Delacour, F.Z.S.; 76, Eaton Place, S.W.
R. M. Woodall, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.; Hetton-le-Hole, Co. Durham.
by Tinniswood Miller.

Miss E. G. R. Peddie Waddell; 4, Great Stuart Street, Edinburgh.
by Miss H. L. Morgan.

A. E. Jamrach; 180, St. George's Street, London, E.
by S. M. Townsend.

Miss M. E. Cope-Proctor; 19, St. George's Square, Stamford, Lincs.
by W. E. Teschemaker.

G. R. Montague; 63, Croxted Road, West Dulwich.
by the Hon. Editor.

The Council thankfully acknowledge the following donation towards the Illustration Fund.

	£	s.	d.
Miss Bousfield	0	10	0
Lady Dunleath	1	0	0
H. Gray (*Post mortem* fee)	0	5	0
Mrs. Miller (Winnings at L.C.B.A.) ..	1	8	0
Rev. J. M. Paterson	0	7	6
H. Robbins	0	5	0
F. G. R. Rotch	0	5	0

THE BIRD MARKET.

All advertisements must be prepaid and reach the Editorial Secretary by the 10th of the month.

Charge: Members' advertisements, four words a penny;
Non-Members, three words a penny.

MEMBERS' ADVERTISEMENTS

COLOURED PLATES: The following are in stock: Vinacious Finch, Orange Flanked Parrakeet, Yellow Sparrow, Indian Roller, Tri-coloured Tanager, Waxwing, Sepoy Finch, Senegal Parrot and Gouldian Finch. These can be supplied to members uncut, for framing, at 1/- each. Any others which have appeared in *Bird Notes*, can be coloured to order and supplied at the same rate. *Apply* The Hon. Editorial Secretary.

WANTED: Bound copies or complete sets of loose parts of Vol. I.
Apply The Hon. Editorial Secretary.

ON SALE FOR BENEFIT OF ILLUSTRATION FUND:—*Feathered Friends, Old and New*, Dr. W. T. Greene, 2/6; *Reports of the United Foreign Cage Bird Club*, 1892-3, 1893-4 and 1894-5 (unbound) 10/- the lot. All in new condition; donated by Mr. N. S. O'Reilly. Offers invited.

Apply The Hon. EDITORIAL SECRETARY.

Black-cheeked 3 guineas pair; All Green Parraquets, 2 years imported 25/-; extra good pair White Javas 10/6; Black-headed Sibias (pair) aviary moulted, 3 guineas; cock Yellow-browed Bunting, very rare, 15/6.

HENRY ROBINBS, 25, Campden Hill Square, London, W.

For Sale: Cock Lemon and cock Orange Hangnests, perfect condition, 35/- each; hen Sulphur-breasted Toucan, hen Green-billed Toucan, £2 2/- each, quite acclimatised; cock Gorgetted Finch 30/-.

Mrs. WARREN VERNON, Toddington Manor, Beds.

1 pair Antelopine Kangaroos, bred in Bath, age 12 and 15 months respectively, price £25; 1 Great Gray, age 12 months, price £15; 1 pair Agile Wallabies, price £16; 1 Male Agile Wallaby £7; 1 pair Stanley Parrakeets, out-door, £4; 1 hen Many Color Parrakeet. 25/-; Diamond Doves 15/- pair; Peaceful Doves 7/6 pair; Bronze-wing Doves £3 pair; 1 Sulphur Crested Cockatoo, reared from the nest, very tame, £3; also a fine large pair of Spotted Emus, £35.

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Miss E. M. FOSTER, 35, High Street, Huntingdon.

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Miss ALICE ROSEY, "Rosemary" House, Seaside Road, Eastbourne.

SHOW REPORTS.

L.P.O.S SHOW CRYSTAL PALACE.

Notices will appear in next issue.

Only one medal was awarded, owing to those entitled thereto having already won silver medals this season.

Silver Medal: C. T. Maxwell, with his Black-throated Lorikeet.

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EDITED BY WESLEY T. PAGE, F.Z.S.

Vol. VII. No. 1. MARCH, 1908.

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The Olive-backed Thrush .. .. R. SUGGITT.
The Malabar Starling .. .. Miss M. E. BAKER.
The Bengalee (with plate) .. .. .. H. R. FILLMER.
My Favourite Stretch of Indian River .. .. Capt. G. A. PERREAU.
Varied Feeding of Lories and Lorikeets .. Mrs. E. WARREN VERNON.
Foreign Birds at the National Show.
Review and Notices of New Books.
EDITORIAL: *Thick-billed Spider Hunter; Rare Birds at the Zoo; The Black-capped Bulbul; The Olive Saltator; Sonnini's Colin; The Mexican Jay; Desmarest's Tanager; The Blue-winged Tanager; The Scarlet Cardinal; The Chestnut-backed Tanager; A St. Helena Seed-eater × Canary Hybrid; The Club's Certificates.*
CORRESPONDENCE: *The Grey Bulbul; White-browed Bush Bulbul; The Shama and Ruby-throat; Common Ruby-throat; White-tailed Ruby-throat.*
POST MORTEM REPORTS.

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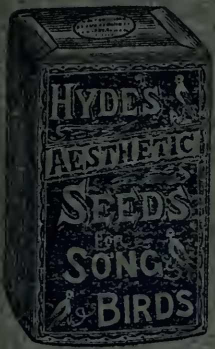
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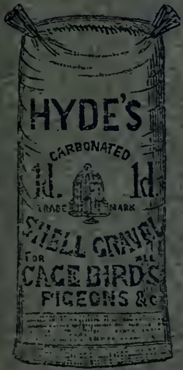
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Beg to announce they have received from Mr. Wallace a preliminary list of Birds, Animals, Lizards, etc., due to arrive in April.

Red-headed Gouldians 25/- pair, Black-headed Gouldians 17/6 pair, a few pairs only of Emblema Picta £5 pair, Crimson Finch 25/- pair, Masked 17/6 pair, Bicheno 15/- pair, Chestnut 15/- pair, Ruficauda 15/- pair, Longtailed Grass 10/- pair, Pectoralis 10/- pair, Yellow-rump 10/- pair, Zebra 5/- pair, Crimson-wing Parrot £4 4/- pair, Red-collared Lorikeet £3 3/- pair, King Parrot (*P. spurius*) £7 10/- pair, Earl Stanley (*P. icterotis*) £3 3/- pair, Rock Parrakeet £5 pair, Many Colors £2 10/- pair, Yellow Collars (Twenty eights) £3 pair, Adelaides £3 3/- pair, White-eared Conures 25/- pair, Amazon Parrots, Cockatiels 12/6, Budgerigars 4/6 pair, White Cockatoos (*C. galarita*) from the nest one pair only £5 5/-, Bare-eyed Cockatoo (*C. gymnopis*) reared from the nest £5 pair, Red-backed Kingfisher (*Halcyon pyrrhopygnis*), Sacred Kingfisher (*H. sanctus*), Silvery-crowned Friar Birds, 1 White-fronted Falcon (*Philemon argenticeps*) reared from the nest, a pet. £25. Striped Brown Hawk (*Hieracidea berigora*), Owls (*Ninox ocellata*), £5 5/- pair, Plumed Pigeons (*Lophophaps plumifera*) £3 pair, Brush Bronze-winged Pigeons (*P. elegans*) £3 pair, these birds suitable for preserves, 100 for £100, Bronzewing Pigeons £3 pair, Peaceful Doves 10/- pair, Diamond Doves 15/- pair, Dusky Mynahs (*Manorhina obscura*), £5 5/- pair, Spotted Emus (*Dromæus irroratus*), Emus (*Dromœus novæ-hollandiæ*), also Emu eggs and the Great Bower birds, Bower Frilled Lizards (*Chlamydosaurus kingii*) £5 pair, Tiger Lizards £1 pair, Porcupine Lizards 10/- pair, various Kangaroos, prices on application, also Wallabies, Boomerangs (a few Native art, various.)

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Vol. VII No. 2. APRIL, 1908.

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Stray Notes on my Birds .. .. C. H. ROW.

Stray Notes on my Aviary and its Inmates .. CAPT. J. S. REEVE.

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Reviews and Notices of New Books.

POST MORTEM REPORTS.

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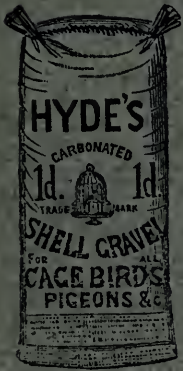
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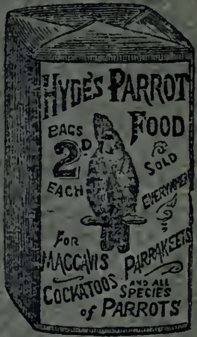
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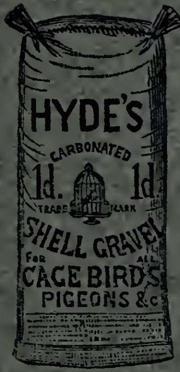
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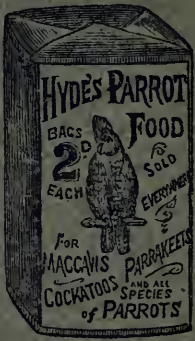
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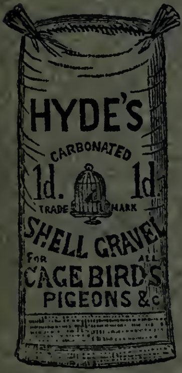
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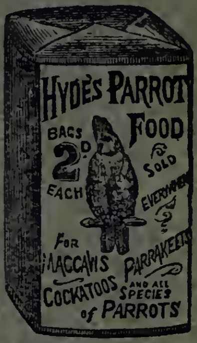
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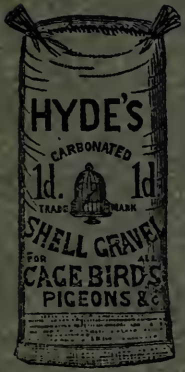
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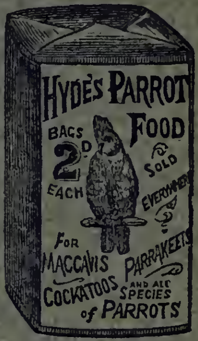
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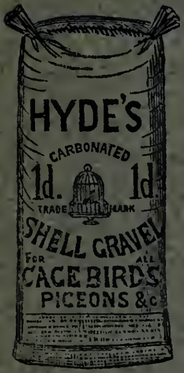
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